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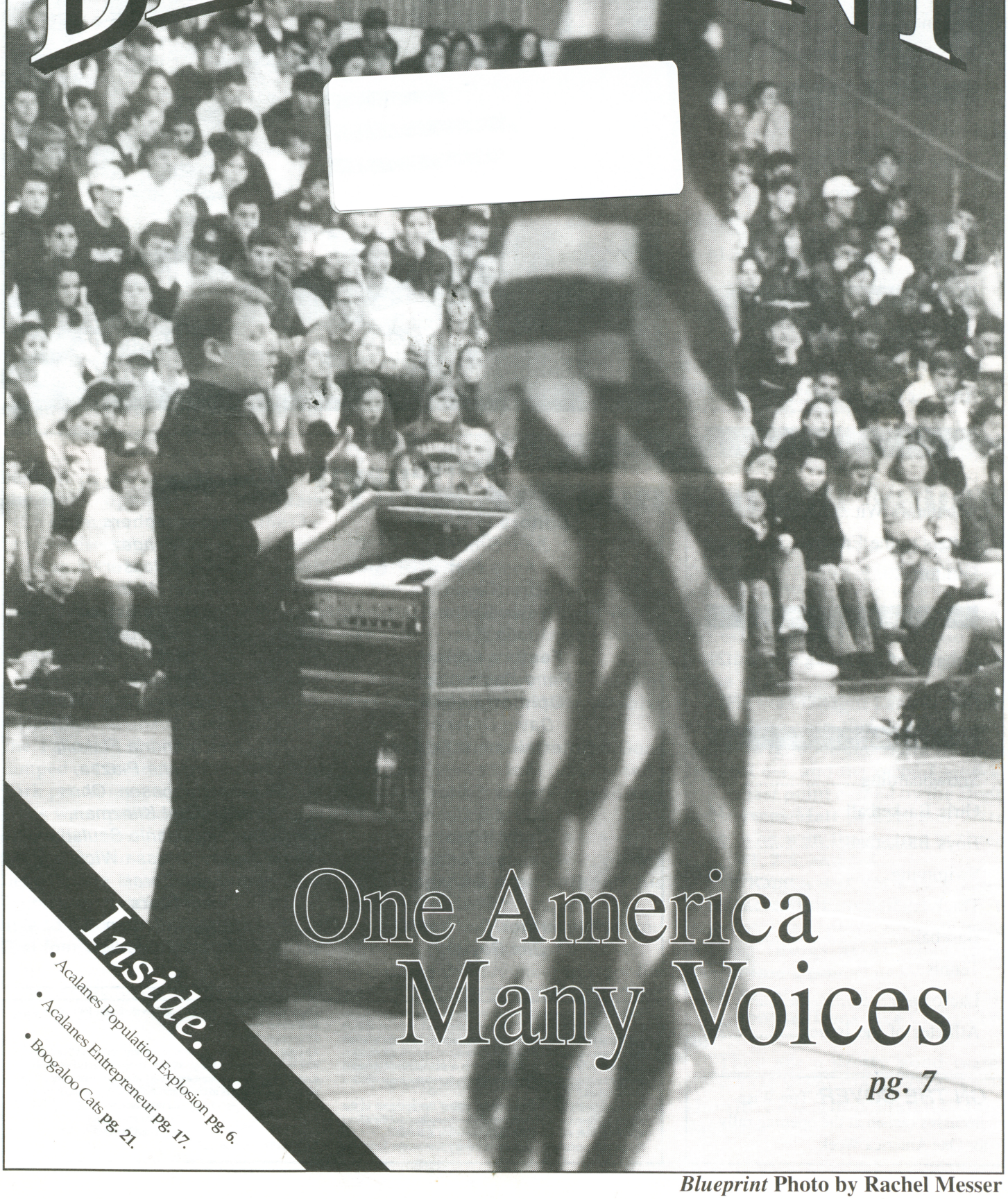

One America Many Voices

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Blueprint **Photo by Rachel Messer**

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ON THE COVER: Tim Wise discusses racism at the opening rally for One America Week.

Photo of the Issue

Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Sophomore Theresa Collins expresses her excitement over N' Sync's performance in the quad.

Blueprint '97-'98

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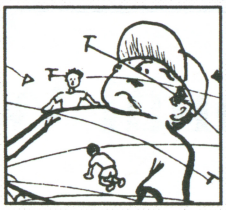
ACALANES BLUEPRINT
News

INSIDE . . . . . .



Population problems restrict district transfers
p. 6

MOCK TRIAL

The Verdict is In: Mock Trial Wins County

By Julie Zorn
News Editor

As Mockers came out of the rain and into the courtroom, El Niño followed them in stirring up a storm.

When the clouds parted, Acalanes Mock Trial team had pounded Monte Vista into the mud, taking first place in the finals competition and enabling them to compete in the state competitions March 27-29.

Each team approached the counsel table and nervously took their seats to await the arrival of the judge when all the excitement would errupt.

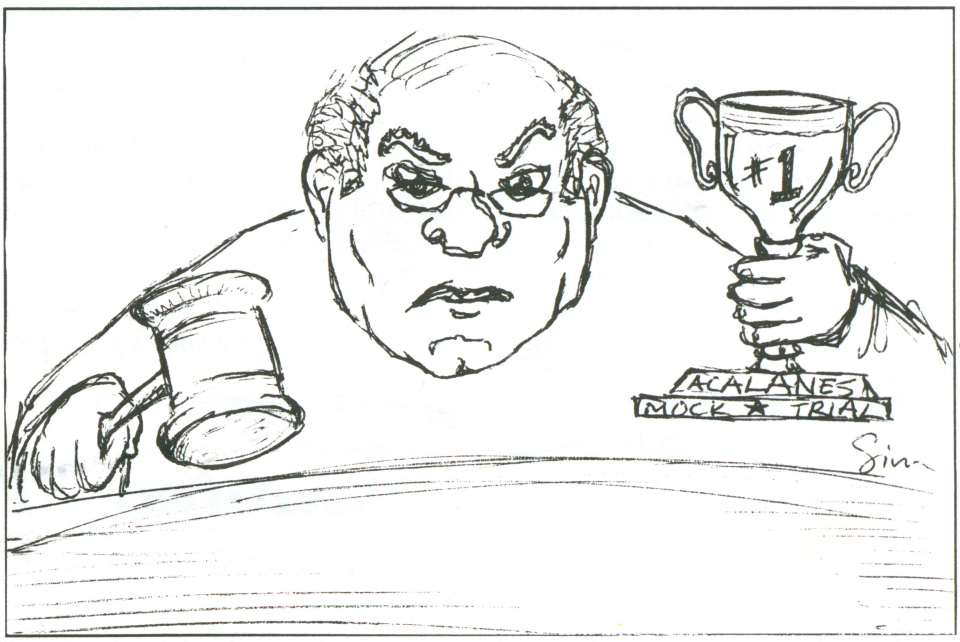
Acalanes prosecutors dove into the case proving charges of involuntary manslaughter and the unlawful removal of a traffic sign, despite Monte Vista's attempt to accuse college student Marty Bryant, played by Acalanes senior Sara Eckholm.

Prosecutor junior Mike Pinkel got up to re-direct Bryant and regain control of the trial, while the defense threw out objections challenging the prosecution. Each time, Pinkel calmly returned to his questions, trying to ease the witness, who was ready to jump off the stand, by saying, "excuse me for the interruption."

When traffic controller Reese Parker, portrayed by Acalanes junior Ann Bordetsky, took the stand, Monte Vista constantly referred to the Mock Trial rule book in another attempt to destroy the prosecution. Taking their arguments too far, Monte Vista hurt their case more then helping it, said presiding judge Justice Ellen James.

While awaiting a verdict and team scores, Monte Vista defense attorney Priyal Subramanian said, "we just wanted to have a good time and enjoy ourselves."

The judges released a verdict of guilty, surprising many team members and scoring attorneys. "I might not have come up with the same verdict," said one attorney.



Blueprint Illustration/Sim Peyron

Despite skepticism, Acalanes prosecution,which included juniors Bordetsky, Sarah Grenfell, Jason Leith, Pinkel, seniors Jackie Frazier, Eckholm, Alex Gaber, Anne Kim and Bret Taylor, cheered when Acalanes was announced as the victors of the competition.

All scorers agreed that Acalanes was the better team, winning by one of the widest margins in recent history, according to Acalanes Mock Trial Coach Carla Garrett.

Acalanes goes to state finals on March 27. "We have potential to get first place at state and then go to nationals," said Leith.

After county finals, Cal High attorney Sharki, who came to watch the competition, said, "congratulations and good luck at state because now you are competing as a county, not just as a school."

Acalanes' defense team also will participate at the state competition. The team includes sophomore Sumi Kim, juniors Simone George, Leith, Melanie Olson, Pinkel, seniors Eckholm, Julie Greene, Kim and Taylor.

Garrett commented that this "team has a lot of potential, and there is nothing that (they) cannot do."

Acalanes entered finals eager to challenge Monte Vista. "Cal High was our main rival, now it's Monte Vista," said Pinkel.

In semi-finals, Acalanes defeated Cal High by a close score of five points. The semi-finals took place on March 3, two days before finals.

Acalanes prosecutors began semi-finals pacing back and forth in the jury assembly room as they waited for a courtroom assignment. "Jump around to get your blood flowing," said Mock Trial coach Brian Welch.

Cutting the tension upon entering the courtroom, Cal High's Adam Sharki said, "Come on, Mike, smile."

"Smiles are for wimps," responded Pinkel.

As the trial came to an end the defendant was aquitted, and Acalanes lost the verdict but won the competition.

VICA

Vocational Wizards Advance to State

By Sara Eckholm
Staff Writer

The performances of ten Acalanes students at a recent regional competition of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America were good enough to advance them to the state finals.

VICA is a national organization which challenges students to excel in various areas of study. Its motto, "Preparing for Leadership in the World of Work," was exemplified by the Acalanes delegation at the Feb. 21 competition in Salinas.

The students competed in many different categories to show off what they can do. Eddy Ng, the club treasurer, won a gold medal in the Architectural Combination competition. His competition entailed manual drafting, doing elevations, as well as drafting with the computer program CAD where he made a floor plan as accurately as possible. Ng said that he isn't sure yet whether or not he wants to be an architect and added, "I just really like it right now."

Ng is just one of the students from Acalanes who won gold or silver, assuring them a place to compete in the state finals. The other students who will be advancing are freshman Peter Deng and sophomore Alison Eckholm for Related Technical Math; junior Sabine Kasper and sophomore Tiana Wright for Job Interview; freshmen Eric Cheng and Andrew Kobylinski for Introduction To Drafting; Deng for VICA Creed; sophomore Tiffany Lanzarotti for First Aid and CPR; and senior Natasha Roy for Technical Drafting.

The state competition will take place from April 23-27 in Fresno. VICA president Roy thinks that the competitions are one of the best parts of VICA. "The competition at the state level (last year) was much more interesting than the one at Regionals," said Roy.

Winners from the state level have the opportunity to advance to Nationals which take place over the summer. VICA vice-president Wright made it to Nationals last year. While there, the sophomore competed among several thousand other students in Kansas City. Competing in the Job Interview competition, Wright was responsible for preparing a cover letter and a resume, and then interviewing for a specific job. She had a great time and "made a lot of really good friends."

VICA was also responsible for inviting and organizing the visit from KTVU news anchor, Dennis Richmond, who spoke to over a hundred Acalanes students on Jan. 29. Wright said that because VICA hopes to inspire students to prepare for the real world, they thought that Richmond be a good example of a successful professional.

Wright was among one of the first 8 students to get involved. Since then, she said that VICA has grown and they now hold almost every week.

VICA first started at Acalanes during the 1996-97 school year. Graphic Arts teacher Ron Dygert became involved in the program when he worked in the Mt. Diablo School District, and continued his involvement at Acalanes because he likes the work ethic that VICA promotes. VICA is a "chance to show off what you've learned in high school," said Dygert.

There are VICA clubs and competitions for both the high school and college levels.

According to the VICA student membership handbook, the club is designed to do several things. Among those are: "To unite in a common bond all students enrolled in trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education; To create enthusiasm for learning; To promote high standards in trade ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety." Roy said that she will definitely continue being active in VICA when she goes to college. "I think it's such a great idea."

NATIONAL MERIT

National Merit at AHS

Hannah Hens-Piazza
Staff Writer

Acalanes' population of about 1300 students produced ten National Merit Scholarship Finalists this year, a relatively high number in comparison to other high schools around the country.

The 1998 Finalists, who have been commended for their excellence by the National Merit Scholarship Program, are Jae Chung, Tim Foley, Brian Gin, Anne Kim, Dave Lake, Jisun Lee, Allison Lewis, Cybele Tom, Paul Twohey, and Nick Webb. These students had selection indexes of 214 or higher on the PSAT and high GPAs throughout high school.

"It's a validation of all the hard work we've put in, but it's just one award on one test," said senior Paul Twohey. Twohey said he puts the award in perspective when he thinks of all the other people he knows who are "very smart" as well and did not receive recognition for their PSAT scores. Twohey took a preparatory class before taking the test, but said he "did not go psycho" in his studying.

Out of the 14,000 Finalists, 7,400 will receive Merit Scholarships. The scholarships range from $500 to $2,000 and are offered by the NMS Corporation, corporate sponsors, and certain colleges and universities.

Principal Keith Schmidt said that the performances of the ten Acalanes Finalists "reflects well on them and reflects well on (the school)." He said the opportunity to have recognition such as this is like "a gold star or a feather in the hat" when the colleges that the students are applying to see it on entrance forms.

According to Schmidt, the number of Acalanes students who earn the award fluctuates from year to year with five in 1997 and nine in 1996. Some schools have only one or two students per year who are Finalists.

Schmidt would like to offer his "sincerest congratulations" to the ten Acalanes students who are the 1998 Finalists for their outstanding work.

STUDENT ASSAULT

Freshman Attacked During Seventh Period

By Julie Zorn
News Editor

Three College Park students "invaded" Harriet Kaizer's seventh period pre-algebra class on March 11 and attacked an Acalanes freshman, according to witnesses.

The victim suffered a black eye and a bloody nose, but returned to school the next day. The parents are not pressing charges because "they did not want it to go any farther," said the victim.

School officials have decided to press charges, however. "One of the reasons that we will aggressively pursue it is that we simply don't think this is a model of behavior that we want others to mimic," said Principal Keith Schmidt.

"I think it is pretty outrageous for something like that to happen where young people are theoretically invading a classroom session to pick a fight...in most police communities that is very rare," said Police Chief Mike Ilg. He said that the perpetrators could be charged with battery and felony assault.

A junior who witnessed the incident said a black Mustang pulled onto campus grounds, and five College Park students got out, leaving the driver behind. "I could tell...that they were going to cause trouble," he said.

The alleged perpetrators stopped an Acalanes student and asked for the location of the victim's seventh period, according to the witness.

One of the attackers entered Kaizer's classroom and pointed out the victim. "We exchanged words and he went after me, so I went after him and then we started fighting," said the victim.

Kaizer ran next door to get help from math teacher Ernie DeMartini. "I realized that he was basically going to push me over if I tried to do anything," said Kaizer.

When DeMartini and Kaizer returned to the pre-algebra class, there were three students leaving the classroom, according to Kaizer.

The witness followed the alleged attackers out to their car at Springbrook. When the witness asked the reason for the attack, one of the students said the victim had made a negative remark about him. Another said, 'we came with our friend', according to the witness.

The witness interpreted the incident as "gang retaliation...but I guess (the victim) had done something to the gang and they were going to come back and jump him."

The victim, however, said "I never said anything about him, and I guess he just thought it was true, and he wanted to beat me up."

Kaizer returned to her class and said "I talked to my class a little bit about it...then we needed to get on with class, unfortunately."

Police are investigating this incident but remain tightlipped. "I cannot discuss that. It is under investigation," said Officer Ken Whitlatch.

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Blueprint 98-99

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PHOTOBRIEF

Blueprint Photo/Hannah Hens-Piazza

Junior Christine Han and Senior Esther Leong played a violin duet for the California Music Educators Association competition on Saturday, March 7. Many students from Acalanes' instrumental music program participated in the CMEA solo/ensemble performances which were held at Diablo Valley College. Han and Leong received a "Command Performance," the highest rating possible.

SCHOOL POPULATION

Bursting Population Threatens Transfers

By Jake Zarah
Staff Writer

Interdistrict transfers, which now account for 10% of Acalanes' enrollment, may be phased out beginning next year, according to Principal Keith Schmidt.

Schmidt's comment was made as a result of a new survey projecting a 25% increase in enrollment district-wide over the next seven years.

The district has to decide whether or not to continue to allow interdistrict transfers as Acalanes gets closer to capacity. "It's possible that next year I won't be able to take any interdistricts," said Schmidt.

Schools in the AUHSD are "high-performing schools", said Schmidt, and parents all over the county would like their kids to attend here. Acalanes currently has the most transfer students, at 148 students, with Las Lomas a close second, at 146 students. Las Lomas is at the moment at capacity, and Acalanes is nearing that mark. "Interdistrict transfers are one of the only places... where we do have some control over our population- we can say yes or no," said Schmidt.

Although the elimination of interdistrict transfers is not yet a fact, it seems to be the most likely solution, to the dismay of many parents. Sharon Talatala, parent of AHS transfer student Phil Talatala, says that she chose to send her child to Acalanes because of its "good reputation and high academic standards". She would like to send her other child to AHS in three years, but is not sure if she will be able to because of the growing population.

> ***"It's possible that next year I won't be able to take any interdistricts."***
>
> **-Keith Schmidt**

The reduction of transfer students will have no effect on currently enrolled transfer students. "It's a matter of letting new ones in," said Schmidt.

However, if the district accepts any transfers, siblings will be given priority, said Schmidt.

In addition to possibily eliminating interdistrict tansfers, Acalanes plans to add eight classrooms and renovate others in anticipation of taking in an additional 400 students on top of the current enrollment of 1,282.

The expansion of the campus will come as a result of the recently passed Measure A. According to Schmidt, "an 'L' shaped two story building" will be built in place of the portable classroom and the trailer at the end of the 400's wing. This renovation will produce 12 larger classrooms, an eight classroom net gain. The renovation will also include new restrooms and a new teacher room.

The report, done by a consultant to the district, Shelley Lapkoff, said that by the year 2005, district-wide enrollment will be up to about 6,000 students, compared to about the 4800 students today. Acalanes should see about a 400 student increase in the next five to 10 years.

"The magnitude of AUHSD's growth will be influenced by grade progression rates, interdistrict transfers, ultimately by future births, and other less tangible factors," said the report.

Economic trends have been on the rise in recent years, allowing housing resales in Lamorinda to be at their highest in ten years. Also, grade progression rates have been on the rise. These rates are the percentage a class grows over time. A class usually grows by 20 to 40 % from the time they are in kindergarten to the time they are in ninth grade. Currently, this rate looks to be at 44 percent if the rates continued in this fashion.

The population increase should level off between 2005 and 2010, due to a birth decline after 1990, but the affects of this increase will be felt for many years after that.

PHOTOBRIEF

Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

Senior Alexander Gaber plays Antony in LASF Shakespeare's production of Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra. The group performed on the evening of March 11 as well as in front of the Drama classes earlier that week.

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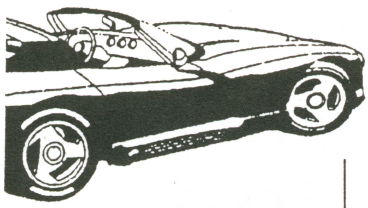

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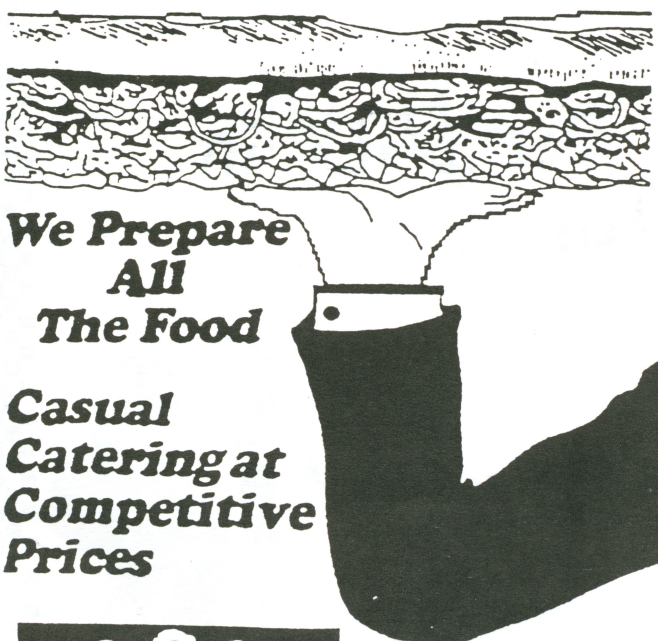

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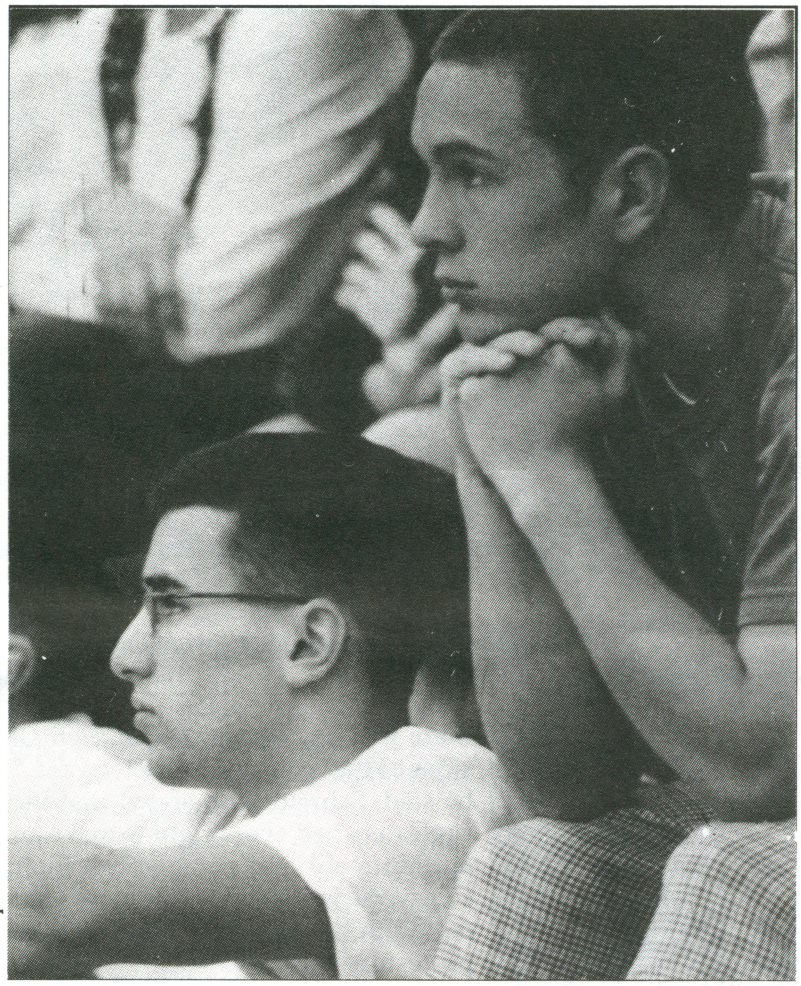

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Two weeks ago, LASF sponsored "Many Peoples, One America" at Acalanes. The week, which focused on controversial topics like racism and homophobia, generated an abundance of public interest and scrutiny. This special section attempts to encapsulate all of the "Many Voices" heard throughout the week.

INSIDE ONE AMERICA

The Week Raises Controversy.....8
The week was greeted by protesters assailing what they saw as leftist propaganda.

One America's Many Speakers.....10
A glance at each of the week's speakers and the issues they covered.

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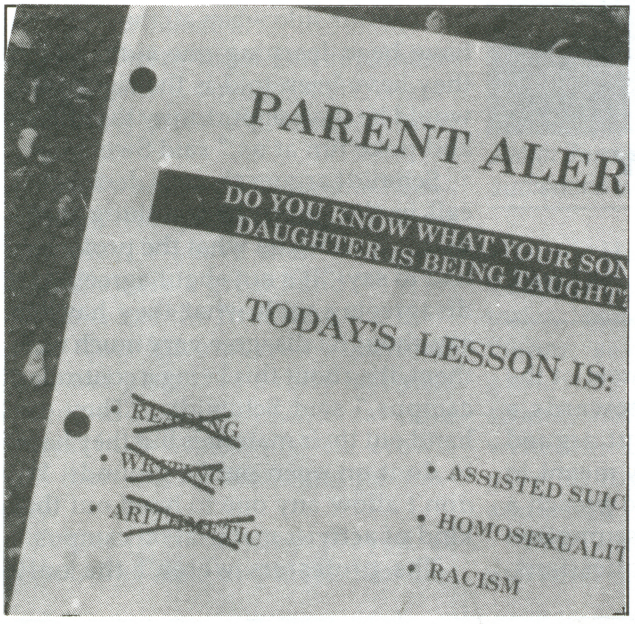

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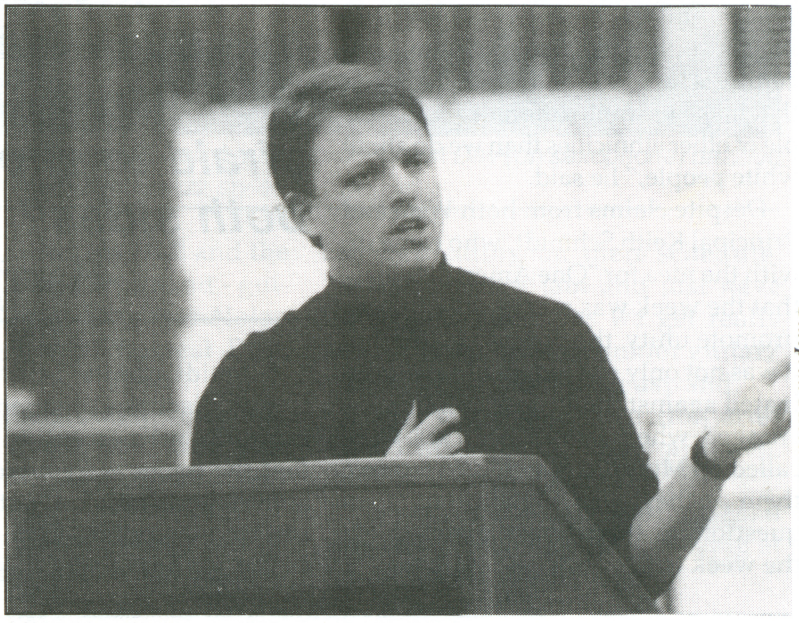


Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

CONTROVERSY

Opposing Opinions Divide "One America"

Week of Stars and Stripes Has Community Protesters Seeing Red

By Jennie Saulsbury and Rand Dadasovich
Staff Writer and Feature Editor

His speech may have been fiery, but it was audience emotions that really heated up the place.

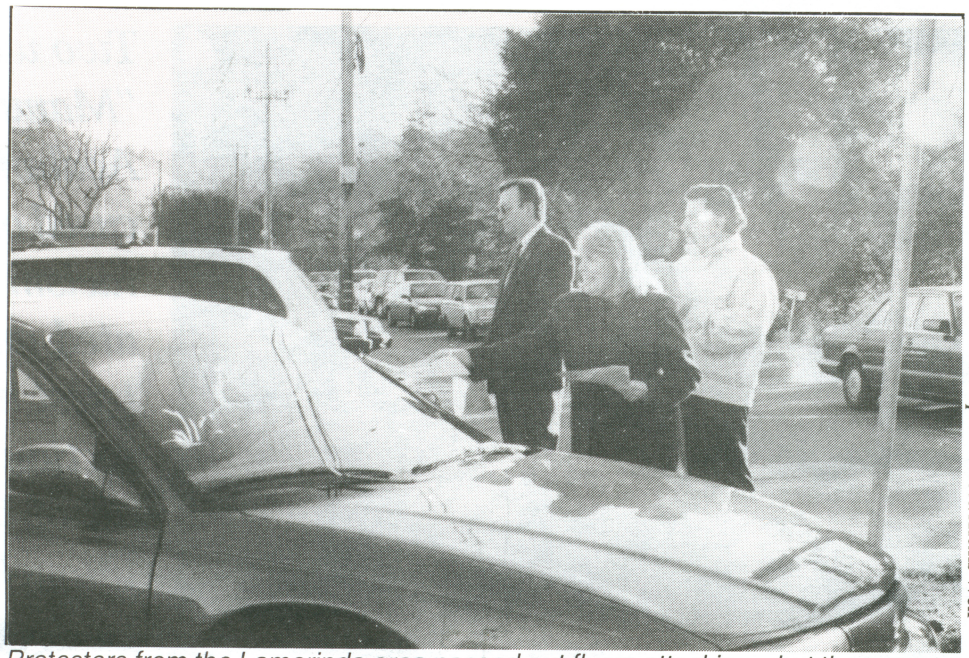
In an attempt to encourage critical thinking, social activist Tim Wise delivered a speech to the Acalanes student body during an assembly for the LASF sponsored "One America" week, fueling an already heated controversy over the place of politics in public schools.

In his speech, Wise advised kids to appreciate diversity and to realize how lucky they are, inflaming some students as well as a group of community protestors, who had already staged a protest against "One America" week that Monday.

"He spoke against the white person," said Dee Thompson, one of the protestors who described themselves as "concerned citizens". Thompson said "If I were black or Latino, I would certainly begin to wonder about my white brothers and sisters in this country."

Wise, however, felt that Thompson and others were reading too far into his words and missing the point of his speech. "It's not a matter of saying hate white people. It's a matter of saying our culture is fundamentally biased in ways that make us think different about people of other ethnicities than we do about white people," he said.

Despite claims from both Wise and Principal Keith Schmidt, who came up with the idea for "One America" week, that the week was meant only to help promote unity, the protesters felt that it was not only one sided, but discriminated against their ideas. They were enraged when two police cars were called on Monday, March 2, to remove them as they tried to hand out fliers questioning the agenda planned for the week to students and parents.



Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Protesters from the Lamorinda area passed out flyers attacking what they saw as a one-sided and unneccessary use of school time.

"It's all left wing agenda," said protester Harry Sweet. "We're attacking a program that they're going to have at the school. If the program has such merits then why are they afraid to show both sides? It's not education."

> ***"If the program has such merits, then why are they afraid to show both sides?"***
>
> **-Harry Sweet**

Schmidt admitted that most of the issues discussed leaned towards a more liberal perceptive but argued that the issues were merely meant to stimulate discussion, not to preach a certain viewpoint. "The assumption is the students will ask questions, there will be discussion and then all sides of the issue will come forward," he said. Schmidt also stated that the protesters had every right to make an appointment and come speak their side of the issue, but this plan was not met with favorable reviews from the protestors.

"To have to come back later and present our side when all the students have been learning one side, which they have been told is the right side, would be their opportunity to ridicule and poke fun at us," said Sweet.

Schmidt argues that his decision to call in the police had nothing to do with his views on what the protesters had to say. "It's not about agreeing or disagreeing with what they have to say, though I disagree very much with them, it's about this being a controlled campus," said Schimidt. "They can hand out their materials but they have to do it on open public grounds. We don't allow any one to hand out that kind of activist material on campus."

The protesters weren't the only

CONTROVERSY

ones complaining about what Wise and "One America" week had to say as the flames of alleged discrimination began to spread into the student body. While most students only complained that Wise spoke too fast, some were outraged by what he had to say.

"There are always two sides to every story and he didn't really touch on the other side," said senior Dave Carney.

"It was as if he hated us because we are going to a good school and living in a good community. It seemed like he wanted to offend us," said one junior who requested anonymity.

While these students are not alone in feeling hurt by Wise's message, other students felt that the point of the speech was not to discriminate against the rich, but to make a small community realize the problems in areas around it. "What struck me hardest was what Mr. Wise said about us being conditioned as a society to make assumptions about other races," said junior David Smith. "I like how he wanted us to know the facts but also to question him and form our own opinions."

Danny Casallias, president of Young Life, a Christian club, felt that "One America" week was a good experience. "I thought it was an excellent idea. To preach on racial reconciliation and breaking the wall between the races...that's basically the Bible's opinion as well." He felt that any one opposed to the week because of religious ideas was forgetting the idea of "love one another" preached in the Bible. "Being a minority in this area, I was glad that the issue was brought up," he said.

Whether students were angered by Wise, inspired by him, or just found him boring, Wise felt that racism and discrimination were important issues that had to be addressed no matter who got in the way. "I wasn't trying to offend anybody. I was saying that we should not assume a person's actions are the result of their race. These protesters want to say that when I talk about whites being criminals I'm breeding reverse racism. But when they say all this stuff about ghettos and devious black people, whether they say it in public or private, that's racism."

"I wasn't trying to offend anybody."
-Tim Wise

Thompson, however, felt that whatever Wise's intentions were, his focus was off. She felt that the speech and the week should have centered more on what's good in America rather than what's wrong with America, but Wise felt that ignoring the problems would not solve anything. "If we only concentrate on what's good in America, problems would never get solved. Concentrating on what's good is not what got African-Americans out of slavery," he said.

Schmidt also felt that the issues were worth discussing, no matter who might oppose them, and felt that, overall, the week was a general success. "I only got about half a dozen phone calls complaining about the week and one or two letters. Most of these were from people who didn't even attend the functions and only heard about this stuff second hand. So I think people were pretty much in favor of the week and its message," he said.

BACKGROUND

If the protests on Monday morning were sparks of the ensuing controversy surrounding "One America" week, then the speech delivered to an anxious AHS student body on Tuesday by speaker Tim Wise triggered the explosion.

During his 60 minute address, Wise set the tone of LASF's first ever "Many Peoples, One America" week. He focused on appreciating diversity and taking responsibility for social equality, attempting to ignite criticism and to encourage students to challenge his views. This message included abandoning indifferent attitudes. Wise emphasized the role of Lamorinda in the struggle for equality. "It is important to be aware of the degree of privilege that you have, not as a way to feel guilty because you are not to blame, but as a way to take responsibility for the fact that if you have been born to a family that can afford to provide resources to you. As a result of this, it is important to ask the question 'Why are the resources greater?' and 'What do we do to equalize the resources?'" he said.

In an attempt to fan away the smoke clouding students minds, Wise confronted the double standards associated with the white social mentality. "If we hear about an African-America or Latino crime, we tend to respond with a 'What is wrong with these people?' kind of attitude, even if it's just an individual black person or small group. By contrast, if a white person like Charles Manson or Jeffrey Dahlmer commits a heinous offense, we never think there is something about that person being white that caused that," he said.

Wise also pointed out how easily people accept what society tells us is truth. "The fact is, if the only reason you came to school was to reinforce the stuff mommy and daddy already told you, why are you here? You are here to challenge what your parents taught you," he said.

Ironically, Wise was pleased by the controversy surrounding the week. "This week is still making people upset, and you know what? I am proud of that. All you did was threaten to think for yourselves...and a lot of people out there think that's a very frightening possibility," said Wise during his speech. "Make no mistake about it, there are people in this community...who would far prefer that you not think for yourselves and remain ignorant, because so long as you remain ignorant, they can control you."

-By Rand Dadasovich

ONE AMERICA SPEAKERS

The Many Voices of "One America"

By the Blueprint Staff

Sustaining a controversy that had been ignited earlier in the week by a series of publicized community reactions, "One America" week activities continued with a series of guest speakers addressing a variety of issues in small student and faculty discussion groups. Below are brief synopses of each of the lectures:

Race and Religion

Race and Religion. Two subjects often not talked about in school, but brought to our attention thanks to "One America" week.

Rabbi Asher and Joel Butler spoke to a group of students about the lessons of racism and of life.

Butler began the presentation by telling the group about his life. He grew up in the South, and was often a victim of racism. He attended a segregated school, and when he was old enough, he joined the Marines. He did not face racism in the military, but once he left the bases, he was subject to many forms of racism. After traveling the world with the military, he ended up in the Bay Area. He served as Chairman of Human Relations for the cities of Richmond and Concord, so speaking to groups is very common for him. "I hope I can share my experiences with people so that they won't have to suffer the same thing I suffered," said Butler.

Rabbi Asher also began his presentation with a summary of his life. He stressed the necessity of learning about the lessons of racism, Anti-Semitism, prejudice, and intolerance. He feels that these lessons must be repeated in order for people to practice being decent human beings. He decided to talk to a high school audience in order to learn more about the "ethnic mix" in high school and to find out if there is any knowledge of Judaism in school.

Medical Ethics

Dr. Kate Christinson spoke on two of the most controversial topics presented during "One America" week: assisted suicide and genetic testing.

Dr. Christinson, who is an internist at Kaiser Walnut Creek and Martinez, is involved in the Hospice program, which is a program that helps people die at home as opposed to in the hospital. She is also the head of Kaiser's Regional Ethics committee and testified before the Senate recently to help them make guidelines surrounding genetic testing.

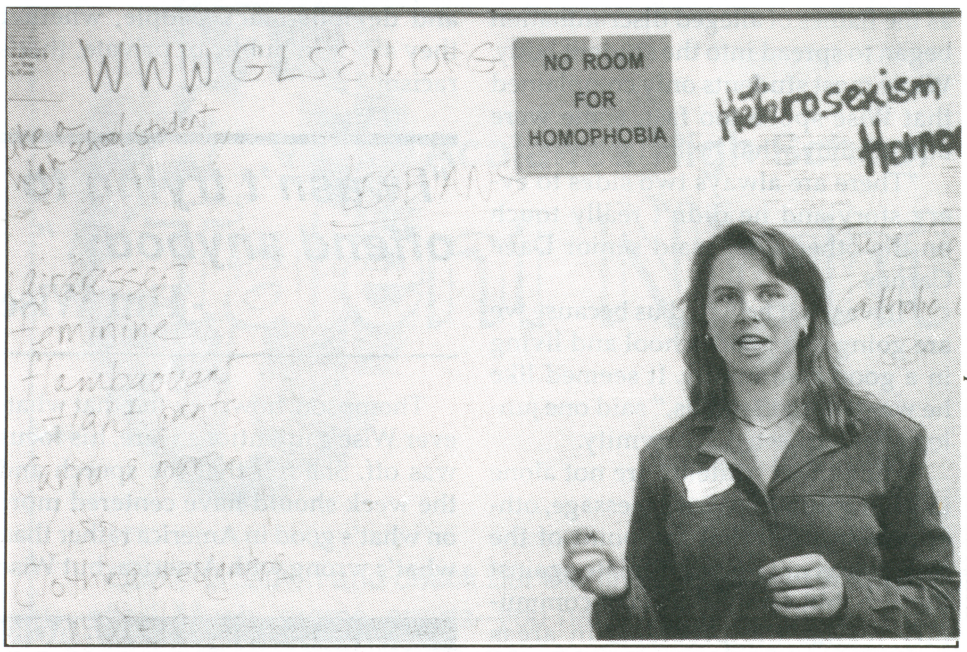
Although Dr. Christinson is highly qualified to give students educated opinions, she felt that a more effective way of getting through to the students was to give them the facts and let them draw their own conclusions and then by debating the issues among themselves. "She presented her facts very clearly in an environment in which we were able to discuss among our peers and form our own opinions," said senior Kira Smith.

Racism

John McKenzie spoke about racism, that of many communities in the U.S., and that of many cultures around the world. He is the founder of an organization called The Recovering Racist Network which works to aid Americans who want to change themselves for the better.

McKenzie first got involved in the fight against racism when he was working at a job which entailed setting up international conferences. He realized that a conference on racism would apply to people all over the world because all cultures have had some sort of persecution scar their history (or present). Because this wouldn't be possible for several years, he decided to do something himself. "I really had a calling to do something personally about this."

McKenzie often wears a badge that reads "Recovering Racist." The response that he gets is "almost universally positive," he said. "A lot of people get it and say, 'Oh, that's a really neat badge,' some people don't say anything but I know they're thinking about it, and then another group of people say, 'You don't look like a racist, are you really a racist?' And then I get to say it's not about the KKK type of racism, it's about the little bit that's inside everyone."



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Julie Lienhart invites students to judge the validty of typical homosexual stereotypes, during a "One America" break-out session.

ONE AMERICA SPEAKERS

English Only

Dr. Thomas Scovel started off the session on English Only by speaking non-stop for a minute and a half, during which no one understood anything he said. He was speaking in Thai. The entire room breathed a sigh of relief when he broke into English. Everyone in the room had been placed in the shoes of a non-English speaker in an American school.

Scovel, a psycholinguist, studies languages as a science. He objectively presented the role of language as a unifying or dividing force in various countries. Scovel cited examples of when language differences that have seemed to divide countries, such as the former Yugoslavia.

Scovel claimed that English has become "the most important and widely used language in the world today," and that in the USA, one cannot reasonably hope for economic success without mastery of English. Scovel discussed how bilingual education operates, and discussed the Unz-Tuchman initiative to "replace bilingual education programs in the schools with one year of intensive English." The rest of the session was occupied by a debate on the relative effectiveness of both programs.

Environmental Justice

Everyone in America was subjected to radiation in the 1950s. This was among several of the shocking claims made by Jackie Cabasso, the executive director of Western States Legal Foundation, a pro nuclear-abolition group.

Cabasso explained the hazards of nuclear weapons and nuclear power to Acalanes students during the Environmental Justice break-out session. There is very little public awareness about nuclear power and weapons, said Cabasso. "It's a problem that you guys are inheriting from your parents' generation." Cabasso also said that we have a responsibility to future generations to take care of the nuclear problem.

First Amendment

Reva Gambert spoke about our First Amendment rights, focusing on the separation between church and state. Using several Supreme court cases to illustrate rights. Gambert spoke on some very controversial issues, such as whether we should have prayer in school.

Gambert, who used to be a physics teacher, now speaks about the Holocaust and civil liberties. Gambert is passionate about students being able to think for themselves, and not just accepting things, but analyzing and questioning everything that they learn. "I tried to present a passionately controversial issue in such a way that students can see its complexity," she said.

Holocaust

"Can you ever forgive me," cried one student asking for forgiveness from Ernie Hollander for what the people of her religion didn't do during the Holocaust: speak out against the Nazis.

Nationally known Holocaust speaker and survivor Ernie Hollander left students in shock and in tears over the horrors of the Holocaust after telling his tale of pain, such as how he witnessed his family being murdered one by one.

Hollander spoke of how he watched his father get shot in the head and watched his mother and three younger siblings die in a gas chamber. He discussed his lifelong journey to educate kids about the Holocaust. "I became a speaker because I'm a survivor. I have to tell the story," said Hollander. "I don't want it to happen to my kids and to you and to others what happened to me in 1938. If I know about a killing and stay away and not tell anyone or do anything, I'm guilty. I'm guilty of killing."

The message that Hollander wanted to send out to the youths of the world isfor them do the best they can to stay away from and fight racism. He wanted the youths to learn the truth of disasters like the Holocaust.

"Racism is a cancer - it grows. You take a young kid and when he starts to grow, the cancer starts to grow. By the time the kids get old and if they are not educated enough, then the cancer kills," said Hollander.

Japanese Internment

Four former Japanese American internees spoke of their personal experiences of U.S. government racism and its violations of human rights during World War II. They also discussed

CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Junior Dan Gray watches Grant Peterson's presentation on homophobia. The heated discussion covered everything from gay pride to gay marriages.

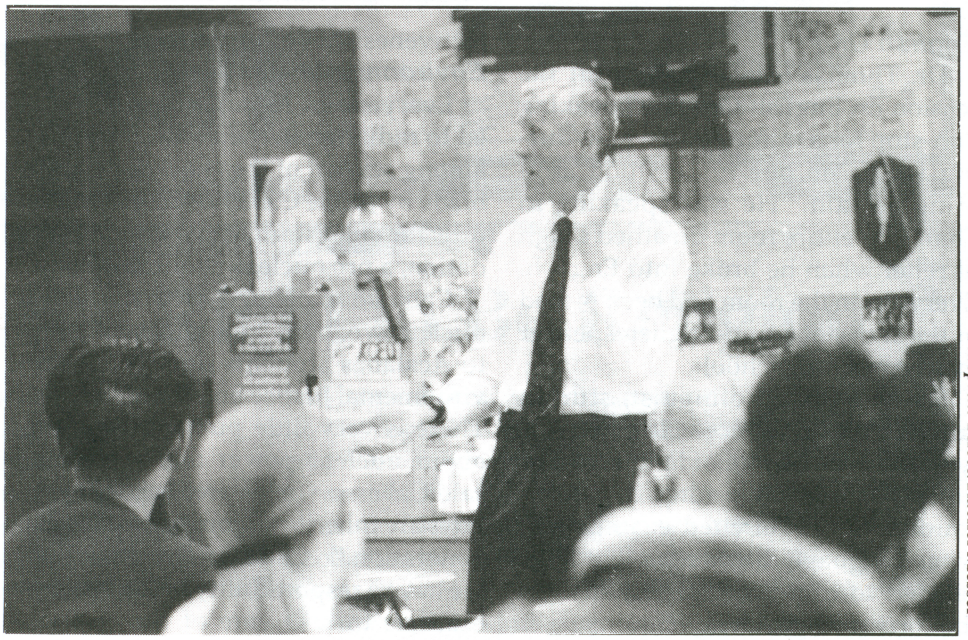
FEATURE

CONT'D FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

their current social justice struggle with the government to get recompensation for Japanese Latin-American internees.

Elsa H. Kudo, Grace Shimizu, Libia Yamamoto, and Ernie Liama described the harsh conditions that the Japanese-American/Latin-American concentration camps placed on their families.

"Our goal is to educate the public so this doesn't happen again. What happened to the Japanese-Americans and Japanese Latin-Americans during World War II was horrible. We will have a lot more information on the subject in the next year," said Kudo, author of Adios To Tears and a board member of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Dr. Thomas Scovel discusses the role of language various cultures around world in his break-out session about bilingual education.

Poverty

Despite a fervent attempt to enlighten a room of lethargic Acalanes students, guest lecturer Linda Crocket encountered a defecit of student participation when discussing the issue of welfare reform in the U.S.

Although the seminar, part of the LASF sponsored "One America" week aimed to inform students about the issues facing poor familes and the pros and cons of welfare reform, only a few students seemed interested enough to ask questions, senior Juliana Athayde said. "I think people were shy and could have been a lot more vocal. They were definitely thinking about the issues (Crockett) discussed, but maybe weren't as verbose as a few individuals."

The topics covered included the motivations behind welfare reform and the impacts of new legislation on working-class Americans. "Most people think welfare only refers to cash aid, but the reality is, it only accounts for one percent of welfare programs," said Crockett. She went on to mention programs such as Workman's Compensation, Social Security, Disability Benefits, and Foster Care Benefits as a few of the dozens of welfare programs offered by our government.

"I think that (as residents of Lamorinda) we are not as exposed to (issues like welfare) as those in more economically disadvantaged areas. I think it was a really important subject to be discussed," said Athayde.

Sexual Harassment

"The sexual harassment law prohibits people from being friendly with each other and having sex with who they want to have sex with," said Equal Rights Advocate Juju Thukrai.

With only an hour to discuss sexual harassment and how to handle it, Thukrai held her audience captive, be it with her spunky attitude or her ability to throw a statistic at her crowd and leave them enthralled by it.

Thukrai spoke with such determination that she convinced her audience of just how serious sexual harassment is, and how easily it is overlooked. Females and males, are sometimes afraid to confess to themselves and to others their experiences, that most cases never make it to court.

"[Sexual harassment] is a perception that is perpetuated by the TV, by the news, by the movies," said Thukrai.

Homophobia

"How many people have heard the word 'faggot' used on campus?" asked guest speaker Grant Peterson. His answer was a roomful of upraised hands.

The talk on homophobia centered on the slurs and stereotypes that serve to encourage the prevalence of homophobia and heterosexism. "The second most common insult among second graders in Massachusetts is 'you're so gay,'" said Peterson. Having been a teacher for thirty years, Peterson has witnessed first hand homophobia's presence in the schools. He contends that "gay and lesbian kids are among the most underserved populations in our schools," and that schools aren't safe for them.

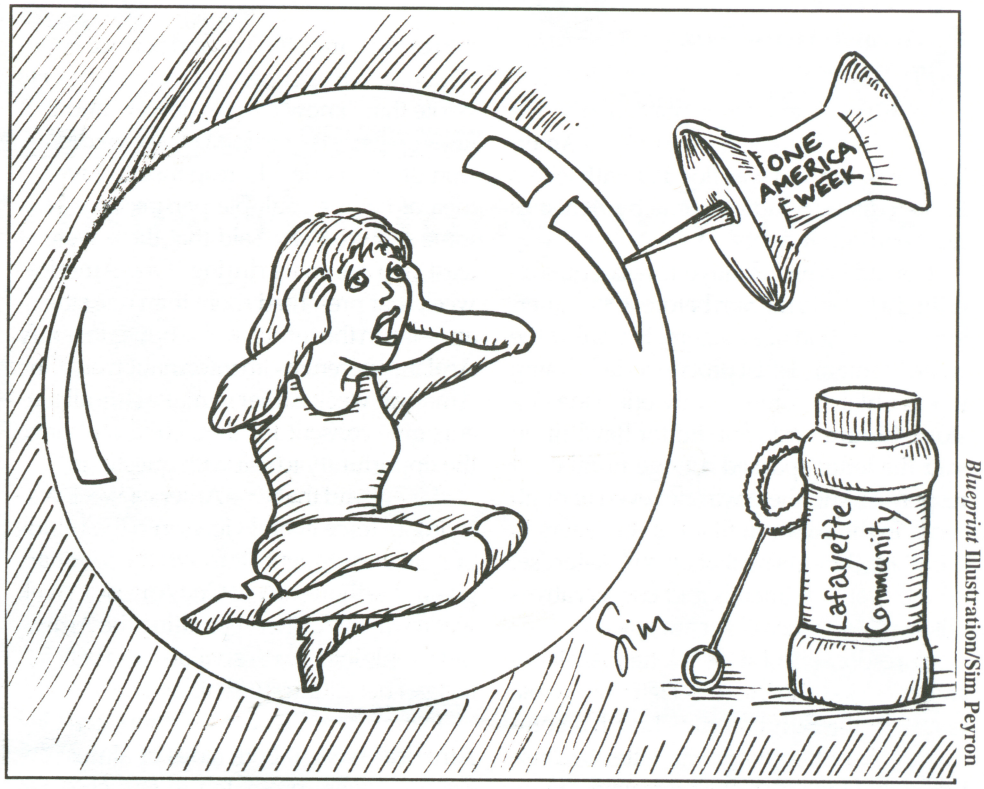
Students were also asked to list all the stereotypes they knew about gay people. One stereotype was: "All gay men are hair-dressers." Once the entire list was on the board, the group evaluated its accuracy.

The session also served as an open forum on homosexuality. Some students wanted to know why gay people are often so public regarding their sexuality, with bumper stickers calling out for "gay pride." Another student answered that gay people do this because "everyone assumes that everyone's straight" and that because harassment and heterosexuality are so prevalent in our culture, gay people have had to turn their struggle into a civil rights movement.

A BLUEPRINT EDITORIAL

Protesters Are Just Blowing Bubbles

By Bret Taylor
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Blueprint Illustration/Sim Peyron

Students learned a lot about America's "Many Peoples" this past week: their races, their sexual preferences, their disabilities, and, thanks to a group of "concerned citizens," their ignorance.

When students entered their first day of a week that was supposed to expand their minds, they were greeted with an onslaught of fearful, conservative propaganda assailing the controversial topics that they were going to discuss. But these protesters, who claimed that "One America" week did not represent "both sides" of these topics, simply illustrate the problem "One America" week was designed to solve.

America is a moving country: populations are multiplying, cities are sprawling, popular culture is disintegrating into a confusing mass of unique subcultures, and, in the process, the youth of today is becoming disillusioned with even approaching any of the problems that face America in coming years.

"One America, Many Peoples" was designed to approach these controversal issues—homosexuality, racism, environmental destruction, and assisted suicide—in the format of an open forum. LASF purposely picked opinionated speakers and controversal issues to spark student interest and, most of all, student opinions.

The speakers were not forming these opinions, but merely illustrating to the student body the magnitude of the problems at hand. And it is evident from the magnitude of discussions throughout the school and community in the weeks following that "One America" was unprecedented in its success.

The protestors outside of Acalanes, and the reactionary authors of letters to the Contra Costa Sun who claim that the week was merely leftist propaganda, are merely scared—scared that their children might have to actually talk about these problems so foreign to sheltered communities like Lafayette.

But what these reactionaries either do not realize or are scared to admit is that all of Acalanes' students will have to face all of these problems in their futures.

Simply ignoring the issues will not make them disappear. Acalanes students will not live in Lafayette forever. And we will not always have "concerned citizens" keepinag the bubble surrounding our minds from breaking open and facing the real problems that America is facing. What better environment than our high school to start the exposure?

The "concerned citizens" must also realize that learning the "reading, writing, and arithmetic" of traditional education is no longer sufficient in the splintered social environment of the information age. High school is supposed train students for adulthood, and many of Acalanes' "young skulls full of mush," as letter-writer Charles Hummer calls them, will have to face these issues next year.

One of the most disturbing aspects of the criticism from the various community members was its patronizing tone. Not only are our "skulls full of mush," but, according to Victor Hipkiss, Acalanes is simply a modern Hitler Youth spreading the leftist propaganda of its administrators. But Mr. Hummer and Mr. Hipkiss have missed the whole point.

We are not living in the era of World War II any more. Progress is not an option, but a necessity. Education is no longer confined to measurement of test scores. The "majority" is no longer one color, one political philosophy, and one people. "Assimilation," as letter-writer Donald Lively so eagerly advocates, is no longer possible.

The only way American society can successfully progress to the twenty-first century is through recognizing the differences between its peoples. This means the homosexual, the disabled, the female, the male, the black, and the white as a collective whole. And there is no better place to do it than in the safe, open environment of Acalanes.

THE PEOPLE SPEAK OUT

Community Collision

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
Staff Writer

In response to a letter published in the Contra Costa Sun condemning "One America" week, the Sun was flooded with letters to the editor, including some by Acalanes teachers and students.

Donald Lively, a Lafayette resident, submitted a letter to the Sun before "One America" week began at Acalanes. He called the week "benignly leftist propaganda," stating it was unfair to present only one side of a story. Contra Costa Sun Editor Bev Britton said the letter sparked a huge number of responses, and there was not even enough room in the paper to fit all of the letters to the editor. Britton said that Lively's letter "set off a button - in liberals and conservatives alike - making them eager to react."

In response to Lively's letter, Acalanes students Matt Van Etten and Jeff Price wrote letters to the Sun contradicting his comments. Van Etten wrote the letter because he felt that Lively's statements were "ignorant." In response, Lively said, "Ignorance is simply a matter of perspective."

Price wrote a letter rebutting Lively's statements that One America Week's goal was to "Balkanize America" and "brainwash" Acalanes students, calling these arguments "completely and utterly untrue."

Social Studies co-chair Larry Freeman also sent a letter to the Sun rebutting Lively's remarks. Freeman agreed with Lively's suggestion to present a broader spectrum of views on certain topics, but said he was "bothered by the extremism" of the rest of Lively's letter. Freeman wants to teach students to "respect America, question America, and see America from a host of perspectives - liberal and conservative." He said that Lively "does not represent mainstream America."

Lively said that ideas and values such as the ones discussed during "One America" week should be kept inside the home and inside the family. To this Freeman said, "We can't assume that those matters will be discussed in the home.....When you tell the story of America, you ultimately tell a story of balance amidst political extremes."

Bob Kelso, director of the Acalanes portion of the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation, also responded to Lively's letter. He wrote that "knowledge is power" and that knowledge is best gained by "open discussion of any issue." In response to Lively's idea of having multiple perspectives on a topic shown, Kelso said that there were at least two seminars during "One America" week that presented more than one side of an issue. In the future, Kelso hopes to notify Acalanes parents with information on "One America" week earlier to make sure all parents give consent for their child and have the opportunity to call with questions.

Lively said that One America Week was trying to force liberal views into the minds of Acalanes students through the seminars given. He thought that One America Week was a way of further separating the American people into "classes, values, and beliefs," instead of uniting students as one.

In the future, Lively would support "One America" week if both sides of almost every topic were presented to students. He used Jesse Jackson as an example of the other side of racism. Lively thought that Jackson "uses racism as a platform on which to deny gains." Said Lively, "I don't think much of one-handed clapping."

STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

"Everyone has the right to their own opinion, but society has to draw the line somewhere. We have to decide what's right and wrong. 'One America' was taking a stand by saying what's right is acceptance."

-Leigh Meredith

"There was only one point of view presented that whole week. Maybe it was for a noble cause but it was very unbalanced. I suppose it is positive, but I felt bombarded by (the message)."

-Steve Baker

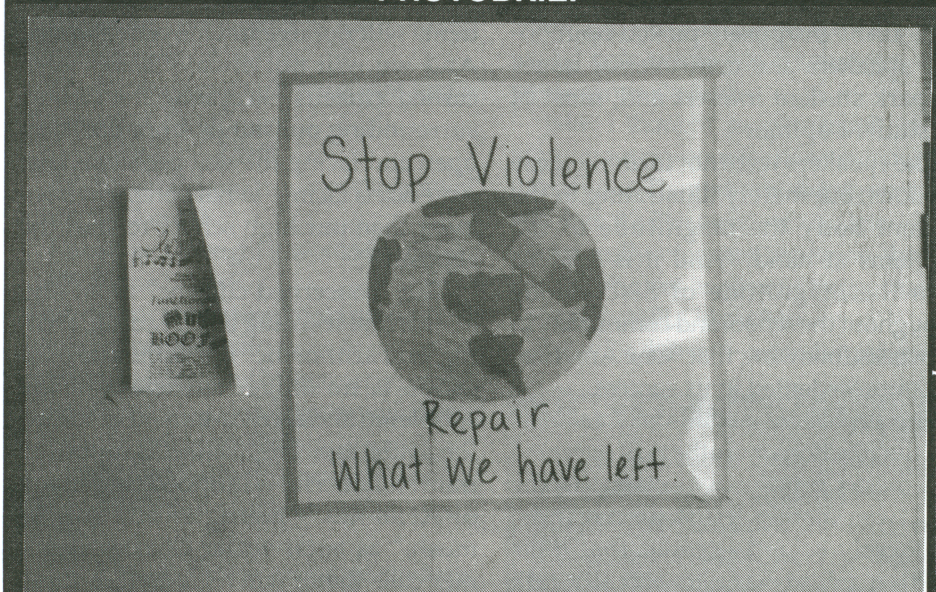
"Sure I think (One America Week) was biased, but the only bias it had was towards tolerance. And not many people are going to say tolerance is wrong."

-Ellen Love

"I thought it got everyone to think, including the outside community."

-Hillary Arnold

PHOTOBRIEF



Blueprint Photo/Anne Kim

Messages,such as this one displayed in front of the library ,captured "One America" week's overall theme of raising consciousness among students.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT

Feature

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Foreign exchange students converse about America
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SCHOOL POETRY

School Poet Brings Meaning to Words

Elizabeth Johnson
Staff Writer

With stone animals dangling from her ears, Allison Luterman sits among the chaos of the teachers' lounge and the drafts of her students' poems.

The emotion and thoughtfulness in her voice is reminiscent of the way she reads poetry. As Acalanes' Poet in the Schools, Luterman introduces sophomores to a poetry "that's alive and to be practiced."

In teaching poetry that's "alive", the one-time VISTA volunteer veers away from the traditional presentation of poetry with cut and dry textbook definitions about rhyme and meter.

"I'm a little leery about analyzing poetry, because I don't want it to become like an equation, where this equals that," said Luterman. "But I do want people to talk about the poems, and really what I'd like is if they can find that place where it touches them, if it does touch them, and touches their life, and hope that it stimulates them to write."

"Some people already think that they love poetry before I come there, and some people think they hate it, and some people just don't know much about what it is," said Luterman. "My hope is that people will find that there is something in poetry that they like."

Luterman shares the poems of poets who are living in and writing about the world that her students know. Luterman said that although she occasionally brings in poetry by the "dead white guys" whose poetry often dominates anthologies, she usually shares poetry which isn't as well known, such as well as the poetry of women and people of color. "She tends to bring in more modern poetry, sometimes off the beaten track, not textbook poetry," said English teacher Heller Waidtlow.

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Acalanes' Poet in the Schools Allison Luterman encourages a sophomore English class to see poetry as both alive and enlightening.

Luterman believes that sharing her own poetry presents the students with a great opportunity because "students get to question and challenge the writer who is right there. Whereas when you read the stuff in a book it's finished, there's a feeling that you can't change it. But when somebody presents (their own poem), you can ask a question or say 'I didn't really like it', it's more alive."

Sophomore Sara Letsko likes the personal connection associated with hearing Luterman read her own works. "When she reads us the poems that she wrote...she can tell us what she was getting at," said Letsko.

"Alison's key role is to inspire ideas in the students and to make them feel safe enough to write those down in poetic form, and then to comment on that," said English teacher Wendy Dunstan.

"What's great about poetry is that it surprises you as you write it. You may feel like you don't know what to write, or that you don't have an idea, but once you're into the process, things come that you didn't expect. That's what I really hope that the students discover, what the process feels like," said Luterman.

Luterman's poetry has been published in numerous local publications including The Sun and the Poets in Transit series. LASF contracted Luterman through Poets in the Schools. Before Luterman, the Acalanes' Poet in the Schools was Thomas Centollela, who, upon publishing two collections of his poetry and winning numerous awards, "moved on to bigger and better things" said Luterman.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

America! A Play in Three Acts

By Anne Kim and Kent Klinzman
Co-Editor-In-Chief and Staff Writer

Blueprint Photo/Kent Klinzman

Jake Switters, Christina Barishnikova, Masha Khapenkova, Volker Haeberle, and Jonas Handtmann converse about their experiences in America.

Act I

It is a sunny day.

Blueprint: So, what do you absolutely hate about America?

The cast still hedges at the question.

Volker: Is this gonna be published?

BP: Of course!

Volker: I really don't like cheddar cheese.

He eyes Jake's cheese sandwich.

BP: Hey, cheddar cheese is awesome, okay? Well, what's one thing you could do at home but you can't do here?

Jake: Drink legally beer! Smoke pot.

BP: What's the drinking age in Russia?

Masha: Sixteen.

Christina: What?

Masha: You can drink anytime you want. People start at 16, but not younger.

Christina: Younger.

Masha: Not younger.

Christina: When did you start to drink?

Masha: Vodka?

Christina: No, not vodka.

Masha: I don't like vodka.

BP: Beer? What do you mostly drink?

Masha: Champagne, wine...

Christina: When did you start to drink? I started when I was twelve.

The reporter is visibly shocked.

BP: Drinking what?!

Christina: Champagne, wine.

BP: Oh. *The reporter feels very relieved.*

Act II

BP: Do you guys have programs like One America Week back where you live? Do speakers come and talk to you about social issues like homophobia or racism or religion?

Christina: No.

Masha: We study it through books.

BP: Study social issues through books?

Jake: Like the Dutch, it is a part of history, because of the second world war. And the Jewish people, you learn about that in history, and you have to take history for three years. Gay people you learn about in biology, and you don't have people talking about it. People are more open to it, to talk about it. It isn't such a critical issue.

Volker: We had a Jewish week once. We had to study the Nazi dictatorship and everything. We had to go to concentration camps and see really how they killed the people. And I thought it was pretty disgusting. We had to study Nazism for two years.

BP: Do a lot of people bring that up when they first meet you?

Volker: Yeah, they're like "Oh, you're from Germany? Are there still Nazis?" That's pretty annoying.

Masha and Christina laugh. Apparently, they have had similar experiences.

Christina: "Communists? Are there still communists now?"

Masha: *Jokingly to Christina.* Are you a communist?

Act III

BP: So, what were you expecting out of sunny California?

Christina: I thought it would be worse.

BP: Worse? How?

Christina: Many people told me you will have so many problems here. In our country, we go to school and have a certain group of people and we go to all classes with them. We study together we hang out together we do everything together. In your country you don't get to know people as well as in our country.

BP: A lot of foreign exchange students complained about that last year.

Jake: Yeah, that's really bad here, like first period they will know you and then two days they will ignore you and then they will know you again on the third day.

Volker: Everybody wants to be the most popular guy in the whole school.

Jake: They want to know everybody and have them respect and look up to you.

Christina: In your country I think everybody wants to be the first, and in our country it's more of a group thing. You want to be together and then maybe your group wants to be the first.

BP: Did you feel like, at first, that people would only talk to you because you were an exchange student?

Jake: I thought people would ask me more about my country or something, but nobody did. They ask you about your name and then it's like okay, see you later. They are not really interested about you, they are just like, oh great, another exchange student.

Masha: Still, I like it here.

Jake: It's different–a good experience.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Volker Haeberle: from Germany
Jake Switters: from the Netherlands
Masha Khapenkova: from Russia
Christina Barishnikova: from Ukraine
Jonas Handtmann: from Germany
Will Phillips: from Germany.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

WELL-BALANCED

Dear Editors:

The bevy of letters criticizing Acalanes High School for its "One America" program last week prompts me to respond. Previous writers have complained about "lack of balance", "indoctrination", "narrow viewpoints","propaganda", and "an agenda to influence thought in a specific way". As one of the outside speakers invited to participate, and as a professional educator with a keen interest in public education in America, I think it is important to "balance" these claims with an alternative perspective.

I spoke to two classes last week about linguistic diversity and its potential effects on national unity, and enjoyed a free and open exchange of ideas with the students, parents, and teachers who were present. Given the wide range of topic, examples, and viewpoints we discussed, it's difficult for me to understand how anyone could characterize my presentations as "indoctrination" or "close-minded propaganda."

Because I have lived for several years under a communist regime (and was incarcerated part of that time because I was an American), I resent these uncritical attacks voiced against Principal Keith Schmidt, and the parents and teachers who put together this unique educational opportunity.

Thomas Scovel

Do you think Acalanes should have "One America" week in the future?
Drop by room 209, write us at 1200 Pleasant Hill Road, or e-mail us at BlueMail@aol.com with your responses.

ISSUES BEYOND POLITICS

Dear Editors:

I was deeply distressed to discover that, during "Many Peoples, One America" week at Acalanes, several members of the community saw fit to raise a protest to it. Their concerns centered on the assumption that a supposed "liberal bias" pervaded the issues discussed. However, this assumption seems shallow and little more than a smokescreen created by small-minded persons to confuse and obscure the issues.

Issues of social justice, like those discussed in "One America" week, are not partisan. Social justice issues are not issues of politics, but of human rights. They transcend labels of liberalism or conservatism because they have nothing to do with liberalism or conservatism. They are isssues of basic rights and responsibilities. Labelling them as otherwise does nothing but attempt to cloud the issue, a fact that those protesting "One America" week must surely be aware of.

Clearly then, those protesting "One America" week must have an agenda--an agenda that includes keeping high school students in ignorance of the issues in the world they live in and will inherit. Ignorance, in this case, is not bliss. It is an insult, and Acalanes students should not stand for it.

Jeff Price
Class of 1999

RESTRICTING MY EDUCATION

Dear Editors:

Upon arriving at school on Monday, I was shocked and appalled to learn that members of my community were actually protesting a week designed to promote awareness and equality. After reading a flyer designed to "alert" parents, I realized that perhaps it wasn't the students that needed to be educated this week, but certain members in the community instead.

"I resent the implication that...I can't think for myself."
-Sam Tama

I resent the implication that someone needs to protest a learning experience because I can't think for myself. I resent the implication that I can't see both sides of a situation and make my own decision based on logical analysis. And above all, I resent the implication that school is not the place for learning. How dare a few ignorant individuals try to limit my education.

I refuse to stand by and watch one of the best week-long educational programs I have ever experienced at Acalanes be critized. I am extremely appreciative of LASF for providing an opportunity for me to see society as it is, and I wholeheartedly believe students of Acalanes this past week. The fact that certain community members have threatened future support of this learning establishment is not only infuriating, but frightful as well. The future of America must be educated, and those who threaten to renounce and deny this necessary education are only hurting themselves.

The knowledge that I have gained this week has been invaluable. I thank those who have made this possible, and I question those who wish to impede the process of learning. Education is something that I take very seriously, especially when it's my own. If individuals who oppose this opportunity for me to learn wish to protest the teaching of equality, I wish they would do so elsewhere— they are infringing upon my right to learn.

Samantha Tama
Class of 1998

SMOKE-FREE

IT'S THE NEW **EVOLUTION**

Boyz II Men

LIFE AFTER ACALANES

Journalist Entreprenuer

By Julie Zorn
News Editor

Former *Blueprint* editor Ben Li ('93) hopes that April 1 turns out to be more than just a joke.

Li has teamed up with *Blueprint* partner, Giles Hamm ('93), and is starting a new magazine.

Li is just starting out and came to *Blueprint* in search of people who would be willing to help edit copy, find newsworthy information, and help find advertisers.

Li's first step in starting the magazine was calling advertisers. He has now composed about 35 ads. The ad to content ratio in the magazine is about a page of content to two pages of ads. "The success of a magazine these days...does not really come from if you have thoughtful content...it's how much advertising you can put in it," said Li.

The magazine has a regional target market for young executives on the go. The content will try to attract "...people who play as hard as they work," said Li. If the magazine fails on the regional market, Li will be printing it on the Internet, where it would immediately become global.

Li currently has a staff of five people working in his apartment, but hopes to bring on at least 20 more and eventually be able to afford an office. He is working with Hamm, who was the Business Manager on the Blueprint staff. Hamm is currently attending graduate school in San Diego, but has been helping throughout the four-month process to put out the first issue, which is planned for April 1, even though the magazine still remains unnamed.

Staffers and interns are not being paid for their work, currently, but may be if the paper is successful. Putting out the magazine requires $25,000, which is coming from advertisements, investors, sales, and Li's own money.

While working on his magazine, Li currently holds a job as a systems engineer at Silicon Graphics in San Ramon. There he works "with a lot of non-technical people who need support and (Li tries) to explain something that's very technical in a non-technical way."

After Acalanes, Li spent four and a half years at Cal where he started other business ventures. In one venture, he started a hot dog stand with some friends on campus, but it ultimately failed because they did not get a permit. He found that starting a business "just takes a lot of money and you really need to know the right people."

Li first entered into these business ventures because he learned that "you cannot make a lot of money working for someone else," and that "when you have accumulated a lot of money and you have very sound financial stability, not only can you afford to have a good life but other people respect you."

The magazine became another business venture for Li because he found "that the things you are going to do are the things that you enjoyed doing as a kid." *Blueprint* was an activity that Li enjoyed when he was younger and decided to pursue working in publications as an adult.

He advice to young business adventurers is "don't walk forward looking backward."

TEACHER APPRECIATION

Acalanes students rarely get the chance to let their teachers know just how influential they are.

The week of March 16-20 was Teacher Appreciation Week at Acalanes, and Blueprint *would like to take this chance to thank all of the teachers and staff for their incredible support for their school's newspaper.*

From all of the editors and staff,

Thank You

PHOTOBRIEF

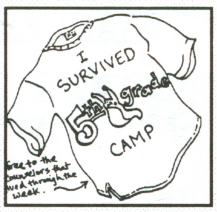
Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

Brandon Jones and Dave Brown rehearse during one of their final late-night rehearsals for the Acalanes production "The Music Man." The musical will be held March 19-21 in the small gym.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT

Opinion

INSIDE . . . . . .



Sim gives his impression of Fifth Grade Camp

p. 6

PRO/CON

Infringing on the Right to Be Religious?

Oklahoma representative Ernest Istook's proposal to expand on the religion establishment clause of the First Amendment, is not as scary as it's made out to be. Cries that the new amendment would breach the barrier between church and state are absurd. Istook's proposal is merely reinforcing the Constitutional rights of every American citizen to practice their religion without any fear of government regulation or control.

Currently, students are allowed to pray quietly before tests, wear religious attire, and meet in groups to discuss religious beliefs. All the proposal is doing is to spell out in clear, direct words and interpret the handwriting that is already on the wall. Istook's proposal is simply protecting these rights by making them "official", and spelling them out in black and white so that those freedoms won't be subject to interpretation.

"..Neither the United States nor any state shall establish any official religion; but the people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed."

As you can see, nowhere in this proposal does it state that the United States government will establish a specific doctrine which all Americans are required to follow. Nowhere does it state that in order to be an active, voting member of a community one must attend church every Sunday. Nowhere does the proposal grant political or judicial power to a religious sect. These clearly would be infringements on the fragile separation between Church and State and carry the bleak possibility of reverting back to colonial times and smarting under the boot of Puritanical fanatics.

Critics of the new law point to the first half of the clause, saying that the proposal would be in effect, an establishment of religion.

But this is clearly not the case. The proposal does not limit the constitutional freedom of religion of a citizen by establishing a single doctrine which the American people would be forced to follow. Nor does it attempt to be the flaming sword of political power for which religious groups may slowly conquer the government with.

America is a melting pot of different cultures, ideas and religious beliefs and these unique beliefs and general religious tolerance must be protected. America should take a step back and relax for the "religious freedom" amendment will not be the trumpet blast that will crumble the wall between Church and State.

Anyone who believes that integrating church and state is going to bring values back into our community needs to think again. The First Amendment was written for a reason, and it has remained intact for over two hundred years due to that very reason. The reason is simple: religion must be kept out of schools to ensure that every child is treated equally.

Some Right-Wing politicians have been trying to make some sort of political statement in Washington recently. A proposed amendment has incredulously made its way to the congress floor. If passed in late April or early May, our respected first amendment would be modified to allow prayer in schools with the agreement that participation cannot be required.

The Constitution reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." As soon as a clause such as the one passed in the House Judiciary Committee is added to that law the rights of many students will be infringed upon. Maybe one of the supporters can explain to me how his or her right to pray is more important than my right to attend a public school in America in order to learn without having their religion shoved in my face.

The fact is that an impressionable six year old simply is not capable of deciding not to participate in school supported prayer, especially prayer lead by the teacher. A 12 year old who is of a different faith than that which is being presented in class is going to feel like an outsider. An 18 year old atheist will be offended by any reference to God. It is not a school's place to advocate faith, much less a specific religion.

It is clear that if this were to become law, the religious majority would have the power in each school district which may lead to religious polarization and to hate crimes based on religious discrimination. It is obvious that these politicians have an agenda. If they want to spend their time arguing over Welfare Reform or Campaign Finance Reform, so be it--but they have no right to slaughter the First Amendment of the United States.

The proposal is an insult to the forefathers of our nation that the First Amendment is being challenged in the first place--the amendment which was written to protect citizens of every faith from religious persecution. The beauty of the United States is the First Amendment, which, in essence, allows every student in public schools to be equal, despite their race, sex or religion. We can never take that away.

WICKHAM'S WIT

Mourning March Madness, Monotony

By Teressa Wickham
Staff Writer

The time of confusion is here. It's March. The "no break for a month" March. And it's so bad that when you walk down the long, crowded hallway, nobody is seen, and nobody is heard. Turning into a classroom, the booming voice of an even higher power than yourself—the teacher— cannot be heard. The cloud resting above your head is so thick, you can cut it with a dull knife.

As bodies robotically walk down the halls, down the streets, down the roads of life, anything could pass before them, and nothing would be seen. Compared to all of the other months, March has nothing in it. Nothing to look forward to, and nothing to do, except reams of workbook pages, labs, and math stumpers.

March first hits you like Babe Ruth smacking the cloth off of his home run ball. Walking outside, taking your first breath of fresh air, it comes. And it doesn't come with subtlety--the narcotic effect that comes in a huge, mind-boggling wave slams you down, trying to drown you in its strength.

From that moment on, you're careless and indifferent, whether you're a senior or not. That huge chem test that decided whether you had a D or a C in the class? Well, you like the letter D better anyway. And that 200 point research report that was due last week? Wasn't it your dog that ate it? Oh...no, you told your teacher that your fish ate it. How about those referrals you got? Any meaning? None what so ever. Why? It's March.

Nobody cares anymore. An entire month of school without end, without a break. And the only thing a reasonable student thinks of is that great ski trip that's going on up at Tahoe over Spring Break.

From the time you raise your body out of bed to the time you lie back down for those short eleven hours of mindless and effortless sleep, air passes through the brain, and a kind young gentleman places a sign reading 'Out of Order,' across your face.

When you're up, walking around aimlessly without caring about that malicious sneer growing on the tip of your nose, you feel your legs getting heavier. Each second another pound is added to those sluggish appendages. And with the addition of every period to your day, one on top of the other, the pulsing, rectifying migraine that was with you when you began your day, reaches a lightning peak. After downing about 25 Advil, hope is lost, and your sodden mind posseses a new thought: 'It's March.'

For teachers, it's a cake walk. Students actually seem to be listening for a change. As teachers stand, looming over their students, they can drone on for an entire 50 minutes without being interrupted. The only sound that's heard is the gurgling noise coming from the dazed students that sit with a pallid look of death upon their faces, and small pools of drool puddling on their desks.

And when class is over, teachers can assign the usual 20 pages of homework without a complaint to be heard. Of course it's March, no student does the homework because when the teacher said 'homework', no one heard anything, and there won't be that one kid who blows it and says "I heard her say..." So again the teachers are appreciative when they can save time checking homework and just giving the entire class zeroes. Teachers don't even have to bother looking at the test answers, because tests are blank. See? We students help somebody out.

For parents, life is just as great, because as they stand, blocking the doorway of your room, thinking that they've stopped you in your attempt to escape, they don't realize that to us, they're just a dull buzz. A buzz that means nothing.

But romance is great this time of year. It's a distraction, a get away from homework and anything that's school related. That special person gets all the attention this month, because he or she is the only thing left on the "care" list.

And as students aimlessly and carelessly allow their grades to drop, their feet to drag, and their minds to close, that one glimmer of Spring Break keeps them going. It gives them that little hint of light, of hope, that the endless voyage will one day end. And the media's all over this one. They say that it's some sort of disease. And what they call it sure does fit. But it's really not our fault. We have the teachers to blame, because as they soak up all this greatness, we all drown in the misery of being hit with a real bad case of MARCH MADNESS.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors:

Concerning the new cover—I understand the fact of wanting to make *Blueprint* more like a real newspaper, but I think the staff should stick to the cover story with the picture. Everyone enjoys reading the cover story and from seeing other students; it is part of the reason why students even open the *Blueprint*. An interesting cover story shows students what *Blueprint* writers have been working on. As I know some *Blueprint* writers personally, I also know being able to write the cover story is an honor. I view *Blueprint* as the school magazine as well as the newspaper becuase of the variety of articles and how it appeals to so many people. I feel the cover picture and cover story entices people to actually read and enjoy *Blueprint*.

Lisa Smithey
Class of 2000

ADVERTISEMENT

Acalanes High School

Talent Night

Thursday, March 26, 1998

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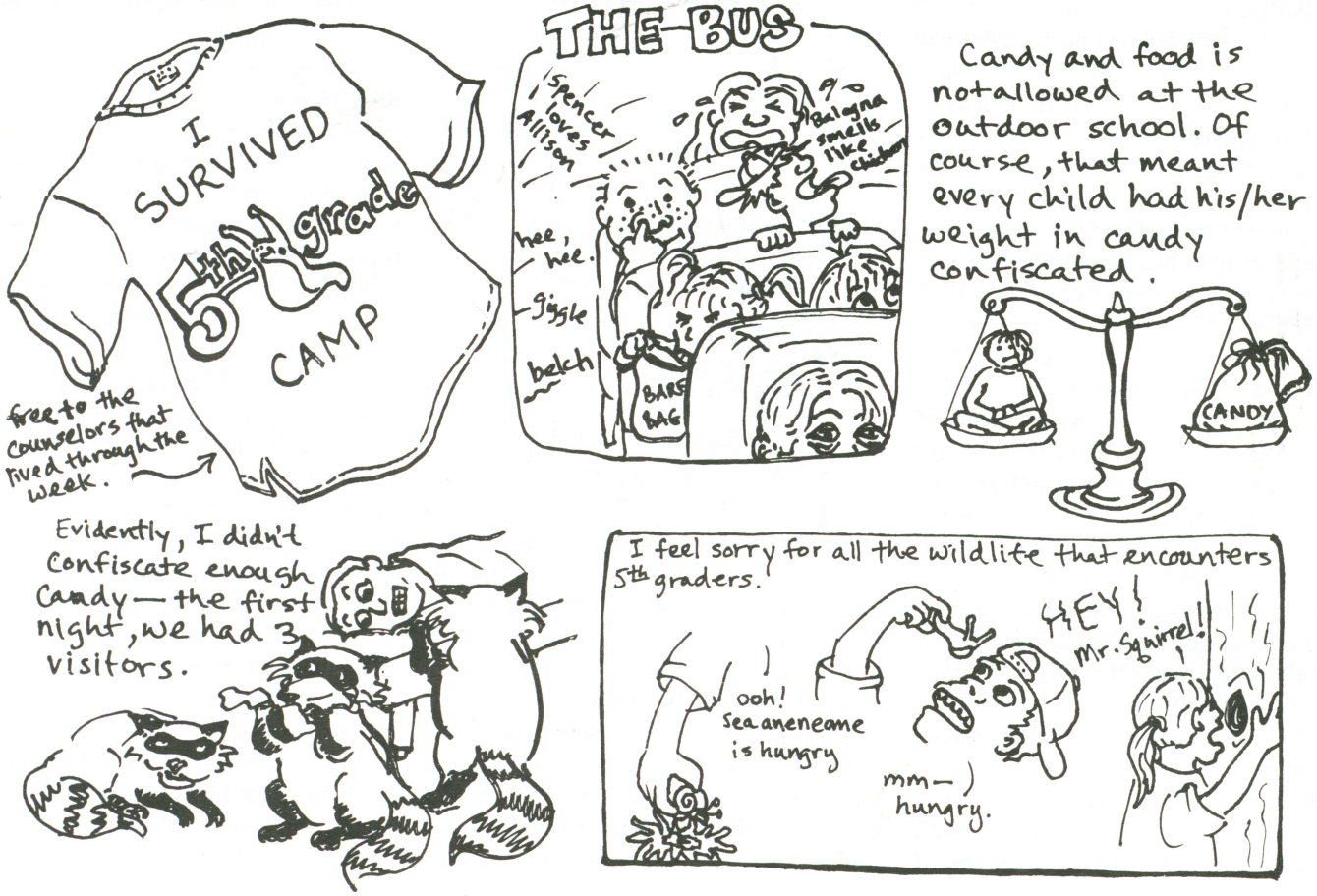
THE FUNNIES


I SURVIVED 5th Grade CAMP
free to the counselors that lived through the week.
THE BUS
Spencer loves Allison
Bologna smells like children
hee, hee.
giggle
belch
BARF BAG
Candy and food is not allowed at the outdoor school. Of course, that meant every child had his/her weight in candy confiscated.
CANDY
Evidently, I didn't confiscate enough Candy — the first night, we had 3 visitors.
I feel sorry for all the wildlife that encounters 5th graders.
ooh! Sea aneneame is hungry
mm— hungry.
HEY! Mr. Squirrel!

ACALANES BLUEPRINT
Entertainment

INSIDE . . . . . .

N'Sync fires up the Quad in their Lafayette debut

p. 22

BOOGALOO CATS

The Boogaloo Cats Jazz Up the Gym

By Genevieve Day
Staff Writer

Once again the Boogaloo Cats band boogied their way to impress the audience, leaving them in awe after their powerful presentation on Mar. 6 in the small gym.

The Cats looked like they were in their own fantasy world marching to the beat of a different drum. "I had fun. I just hope people enjoyed it...," said senior guitar player Meric Long.

Excited Acalanes students attended the show, tapping their feet and snapping their fingers to the music. "I thought the show was excellent!" said junior Dana Wilcox.

All the band members seemed to have left earth and entered their own planet of music. "It looked like they didn't know the audience was there because they were so caught up in the music," said sophomore Courtney Tysell.

The Cats all seemed happy with their performance after the show. "I believe it went most extraordinarily, exuberantly, outrageously, chaotic," said junior drummer Nolan Fisher.

History teacher Dr. Janene Scovel asked for permission to have them play. "I love their sound. I think they are a great band."

This is not the first time the Boogaloo Cats have played at school. The band played at a rally last year and in the quad this year, every time successfully satisfying the crowd with their catchy tunes and personality.

Not only have they played at school, but also at places like the Masonic Hall, Veterans Hall and the Community Center. The band - guitarist, Meric Long; drummer Nolan Fisher; saxophonist Forrest Day; guitarist/violinist Terrell Liedstrand; and bassist Kevin Gundell - write their own songs and have been playing together for about a year and a half.

The Cats practice in their studio at Fisher's house as often as they can depending on their schedule. "Sometimes we jam and just have fun, and other times we get really serious about it," said junior guitar/violin player Terrell Liedstrand.

From the student reaction after their thirty minute show at lunch, their practicing paid off.

"It was one of my favorite gigs, it was really relaxed. I like playing at school," said Liedstrand.

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Junior Terrell Liedstrand (on violin) and senior Forrest Day (on saxophone) dazzled audiences with their unique jazz style.

N' SYNC

New Band N'Sync with Acalanes

By Vanessa Totten
Copy Editor

European sensation N'Sync landed in the AHS quad for a special free concert on Monday at lunch, driving the female population of AHS into a frenzy. They came to AHS at the request of Vice President of Marketing at RCA and 1975 AHS grad Cliff O'Sullivan and because they were in the Bay Area and "had a few free hours" said O'Sullivan. O'Sullivan admitted their target audience consists of high school students, "mostly girls."

The mob of mostly female students who crowded into the Career Center, cutting their fifth period, certainly appreciated N'Sync's lunchtime performance. They didn't know that the guys - James Lance Bass, 18, Joshua "JC" Chasez, 21, Joey Fatone Jr., 21, Chris Alan Kirkpatrick, 26, and Justin Timberlake, 17 - aren't far removed from their own high schools. These down-to-earth guys sat down with Blueprint *before their performance and semi-seriously answered our questions. Excerpts from the interview are below.*

N'Sync singers Justin Timberlake and JC Chasez serenade a crowd of screaming Acalanes students during their lunchtime performance in the quad.

Chris: We are wearing the wackest clothes, no I'm just kidding. *Facial expression shows he is not sincere.*

BP: What can you tell me about your success so far in America?

Chris: It's been going very fast.

Lance: It's been unexpected.

JC: We've been released here for like three, four weeks, and we charted in the first week that we were released...

Joey: We're going to be number 17.

Chris: We've done a lot overseas and that kind of prepared us for all of this, I mean we've been touring and stuff for like a year and a half almost two years, so like we're prepared, it's just a matter of being in the States.

BP: How is your group different?

Joey: Our harmonies are very different. We do all of our five point harmonies and our four point harmonies and we have more intricate chords. We're real. This is us. You see'n us as is.

Lance: We do a lot of dancing.

Chris: We don't wear these outfits everyday.

Chris to Lance: What the heck are you wearing?

JC: Our stuff is a little bit more complicated. It's just a litle bit more musical. When you listen to the progressions and you listen to the harmonies that we use over certain chords, they're not always straight chords, they're like jazz chords, and they're nines and they're sixes.

Chris: We're kind of going the route I think Boys To Men started with, with motownphilly, doing like uptempo harmony songs. That's what we do. They kind of went more towards the ballads, and we're going to go more towards the...

Joey: We have ballads too.

Chris: We have ballads too, but...

Justin: We have like half ballads, half uptempos, so we do it all.

JC: Our stuff is just a little more complicated, that's all.

BP: How has your U.S. tour been so far?...

Chris: We just have fun. We go on stage and we have fun with the crowd. We had a night last week in Texas somewhere and the microphones just went kaput and crazy. But, I mean we still had fun with the crowd, 'cause we'd sung the songs that we'd gone there to do and they gave us a corded mic and when you see our show, you'll see a corded mic is very hampersome.

Justin: Is that a word?

The group makes fun of Chris.

Chris: Where's the dictionary? It's very cumbersome... Anyways...we still get up there and have fun with the crowd and interact and have a good time, and that's arduous...(with the corded microphones).

BP: How did you two go from acting to singing? (Justin and JC met while filming the T.V. show "The Mickey Mouse Club")

JC: Actually, the show was a variety show, so we got to both.

Justin: We sang on the show.

Justin to BP: Did you ever watch the "Mickey Mouse Club"?

BP: A long time ago.

Justin: I'm going to crawl around this table lady...

JC: He (Justin) has the tapes at his house.

Justin: My mom taped it.

FREE

Learn to ski for free. Get lessons and lift tickets for free during the month of March with this coupon. Lift ticket good on beginner runs only. Lessons are limited to 2 hours per person per session. Coupon valid March 1 - March 31, 1998 only.

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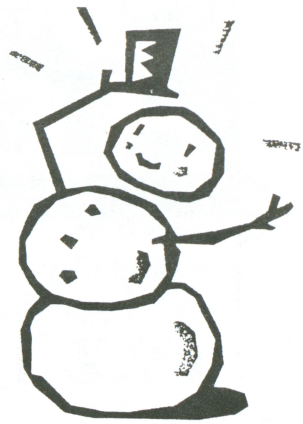

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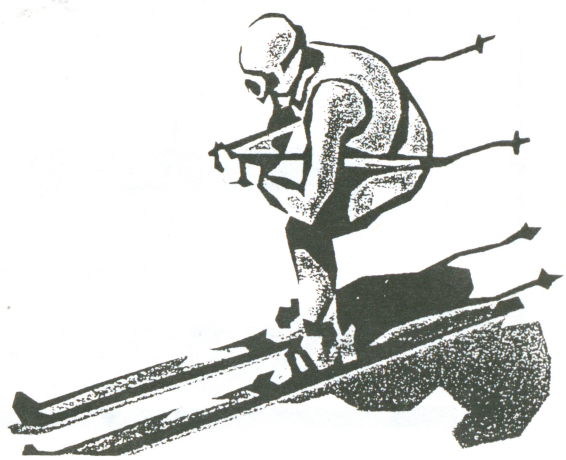

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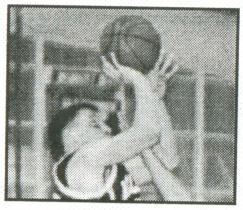
ACALANES BLUEPRINT
Sports

INSIDE . . . . . .



Boys basketball loses to Mats to end post-season play
p. 25

ALTERNATIVE SPORTS

Snowboarding:Soaring to Heaven

By Chris Kinney
Staff Writer

Soaring through the air, ripping 360s while holding the back of your board, and tearing down the mountain. This is what it's like to snowboard, one of the most thrilling, adrenaline pumping, Generation X sports out there. Oh, and it's much easier then skiing.

The 90s response to surfing, snowboarding is probably the largest growing sport among teenagers and young adults. Basically, we have taken the wheels off of a skateboard and thrown the board onto the snow and said 'go at it.' But there's just no substitute for the feeling of ripping down the mountain, just to launch yourself into the air at the bottom for the closest possible feeling of flying.

In skiing, you have two planks to worry about. That's four edges to catch, two feet to go every which way--ever hear of the splits? In snowboarding, there are only two edges to catch, so there is a 50% less chance that you will catch an edge and fall flat on your face, and your feet have no risk of doing the splits. Also, when that bothersome little sapling pokes up in the middle of the run you can go right over it without pulling a Bono or Kennedy and smashing into it.

Gilding through the fresh powder is one of the greatest feelings on a board. It feels like floating on a cloud. Going down the mountain or carving the turns in fresh powder, it seems as if the boarder has died and gone to heaven.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. As the boarder reaches the bottom of the heavenly hill, the boarder catches a glimpse of the end of the run and his happiness turns to despair. Relief is only found when you reach the lift and get to relax on the ride up the mountain.

Courtesy Photo

Despite promising greater speeds and greater air than skiing, snowboarding is actually quite easy to learn, according to those who have tried both.

However, snow boarding is a tiring sport. Bystanders don't realize the difficulty of the sport. If the boarder loses his balance, any observer will see a humongous ball of snow tumbling down the hill. Then again, once you get the weighing part down, you never lose it. "Getting it down" are the key words here. Each person must learn to master his or her personal balancing. After that, it's simply edging and moving the back of the board.

Once you've got the basic control down, it's time for the jumps and tricks. First, you've got to master your fear of injury (if you have any). When the boarder is launched off the jump, it's all or nothing as he flies through the air, spins and grabs the back of the board. If there is any hesitation, you're going to end up with your arms all different ways, in unbelievable pain, or as a human snowball at the bottom of the hill. You have to know what you're going to do as you go off the jump, and there cannot be any delay in executing your trick.

Another big issue in snowboarding is, obviously, the board. If one's preferences veer toward speeding down hills with stability, then a longer board with hard plate (ski boot) bindings is probably for you. But if you want to be able to do a lot of tricks and stunts, it will be much easier to use a shorter board, and probably soft boot bindings. The hard plates allow for more control between the foot and the board. With the soft bindings, you sacrifice control for a more comfortable ride.

By the way, snowboarding has also been recognized by ski patrols. There are now snowboarding patrollers, but they also have to have skis on hand, in case they need to take a sled down the mountain.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Dons Title-Run Ends In Overtime Loss

By Chris Vetek
Staff Writer

Sacred-Heart forward Sarah Richen saw it coming. After nailing an eight-footer 1:00 into overtime, Richen stole the inbound pass and quickly made the lay-up, effectively ending the Acalanes Lady Dons season and dreams for a championship.

Acalanes lost in overtime to Sacred-Heart Cathedral - S.F. 56-50 in the Division III NorCal finals, Saturday, March 15 at San Joaquin Delta Center in Stockton.

"We turned the ball over way too much, and their big girl, Richen, dominated the game. We didn't play fundamentally sound basketball," said Acalanes coach Casey Rush.

Richen finished the game with 32 points, and was 8 of 12 at the line.

The climax for the Dons came in the third quarter, when they fought back to come within one point.

"We came back from a ten-point deficit and almost regained the lead. We had a lot of turnovers, and that hurt us towards the end of the game," said sophomore Lady Don Corrie Mizusawa.

Mizusawa led all Acalanes players in scoring, making 13 points and 3 of 3 free-throws.

Acalanes won big over powerhouse St. Ignatius-San Francisco 51-40 in their NorCal semifinal game at Campolindo on Thursday, March 13.

St. Ignatius made only 3 of 19 total three-pointers and shot 33 percent from the floor, while Acalanes made 46 percent of its shots and completed 17 of 28 free throws for the night, never giving St. Ignatius the lead.

Danielle Silvani scored 15 points compared with the 11 points of S.I.'s top scorer, guard Maya Fok.

"We shut Fok down. We came in kind of nervous, because we played a close game with this team before this year, but we've gotten better," said Silvani.

Fok blamed much of the loss on the officiating, which received constant hammering from the S.I. crowd, although Saint Ignatius finished with 10 team fouls, only one more than Acalanes' nine.

"They were awful. It just got way too out of hand. But our team didn't execute the way we wanted to, and (Acalanes) killed us down low rebounding," said Fok.

S.I. coach Tim Reardon disagreed with Fok on the officiating.

"I don't think it was one-sided. Acalanes played with such intensity, and we didn't prep as much as we should have. Going into the game we thought that if we could stop Corrie (Mizusawa) we could hold them, but everyone else on the team stepped up," said Reardon.

The Lady Dons built an early lead in the first quarter, largely credited to sophomore Hilary Anderson's two consecutive lay-ups within the last two minutes, giving her team a 16-7 advantage.

Fok and St. Ignatius narrowed the gap slightly after Fok's 2 three pointers brought them to within seven at halftime, down 26-19.

Silvani made 4 points, while Anderson, sophomore Lauren Murray, and senior Meredith Galer each made third quarter field goals, as Acalanes widened the gap to a 41-27 advantage. St. Ignatius missed all 10 of its fourth quarter three-pointer attempts, and Silvani made 2 free throws with 41 seconds left, giving the Dons an eleven point lead that they retained until the end.

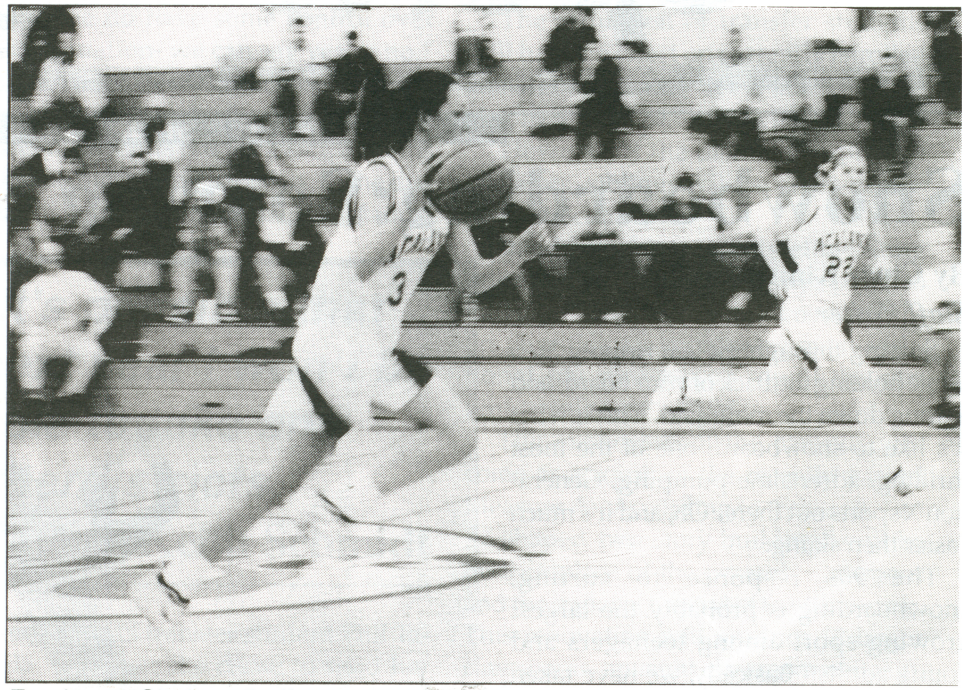
"This was the only time I've ever been worried coming into a game. Meredith had a great game, and she got her goal of 10 rebounds," said coach Rush.

Second-year coach Rush enjoyed his second-consecutive N.C.S. championship, as his Lady Dons defeated the Northgate Broncos, 40-30, on Saturday Mar. 8 at St. Mary's College, putting on a dazzling show of defense before a packed crowd.

"Our defense was unbelievable. We dominated them, we stymied them all game," said Rush.

It was a night of fair shooting performances at best and constant taunting by both teams.

Acalanes took an early four point lead to start the game, but Northgate was quick to respond, with Bronco center Laura Luevano picking up two field goals in the final three minutes, giving the Broncos an 11-6 advantage. Luevano dominated the boards on both sides, and fin-



Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Freshman Chelsea Duffant heads the ball up court as her teammate, junior Kate Daniel, looks for the ball.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

ished with 17 rebounds and nine points.

"Overall we did a pretty good job rebounding. Luevano did outstanding on the boards," said Bronco coach Gabe Adami.

Acalanes quickly exploited the bucking Broncos' costly shooting errors in the second quarter, however, and the Lady Dons finished the half shooting 42 percent from the floor, compared with a 24 percent shooting performance by Northgate.

The Broncos' offensive weapons in the Hanft twins were shut out, and Acalanes clutched a firm 23-11 halftime lead.

Sophomore guard Lisa Ovadia stole the ball from Charlene Weiss just before the end of the half, then followed with the easy layup, sparking an energy burst from the fans and through the players as time ran out.

"Our shooting was good in the second quarter and most of the second half," said Rush.

Although Northgate's shooting percentage, at 39%, was better than the Lady Dons', at 21%, in the second half, Acalanes capitalized on 21 total Northgate fouls, 13 in the second half and seven in the fourth quarter, making 8 of 14 second-half free throws.

Sophomore guard Lauren Murray finished making 5 of 6 total free throws, a key factor for her team maintaining its lead, which hovered around 10 points throughout the fourth quarter.

Senior guard Danielle Silvani and senior center Meredith Galer each made three of four total free throws as well.

"We were on tonight. We kept them to around ten points in the first half, and our defense was awesome," said Galer.

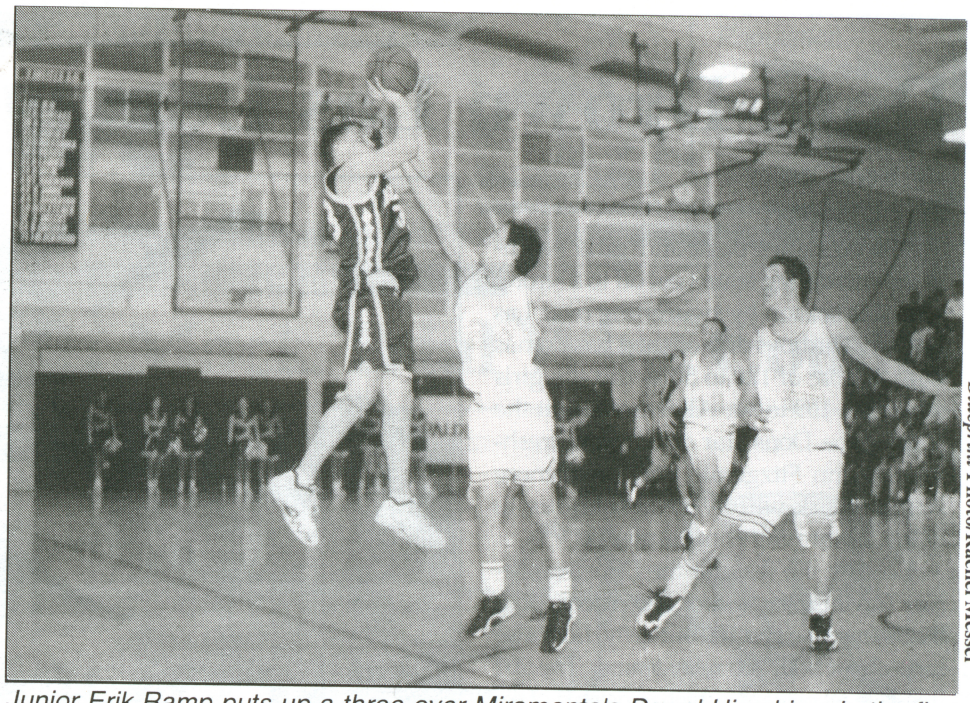
Northgate coach Gabe Adami was displeased with his team's shooting performance.

"We shot like crap. On the other hand we shut their best player down," he said.

Sophomore guard Corrie Mizusawa was held to three points, making three of seven from the line.

Bronco junior forward Celeste Bucklew, who finished the game with 4 points, also didn't like her team's offensive showing.

"We just couldn't score inside. We kept getting beat, and I know we could've done better. We did do a good job screening out," she said.



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Junior Erik Ramp puts up a three over Miramonte's Darrel Hirashima in the first quarter of a recent playoff game at Miramonte.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Dons Fall to Mats Again

By Ben Conley
Sports Editor

The Acalanes boys baketball team ran into a huge wall this season. Actually, a big Mat. And this big green Mat didn't have a welcome sign on it.

The Dons lost to Miramonte two out of three times this season with the losses coming at crucial times.

The most recent loss came in the second round of the NCS Divison III playoffs with Acalanes succumbing to the Matadors 63-42, ending the Dons' season.

The Dons' second straight loss to Miramonte left the Dons' final record at 20-10. Miramonte had no problems in defeating the Dons as Acalanes fell into a hole early in the game which they never climbed out of.

There was some hope for the Dons after the first quarter as the Dons trailed by 6. By halftime, Miramonte was ahead by 9. Acalanes only made 9 out of 21 shots in the second quarter which helped the Matadors extend their lead. Junior Erik Ramp led the Dons with 15 points but the highlight of the game was probably the play of the Dons' bench. In his last high school basketball game ever, senior Matt Streumpf left it all on the court as he wasn't afraid to get on the floor and mix it up with Miramonte.

In an exciting first round game which was too close for comfort, the host Dons defeated the Ygnacio Valley warriors thanks to a buzzer-beating three-pointer by senior Chris Nelson.

With ten seconds left YV hit a left-handed jumper from the left side putting the Warriors up by two. "The second he got it I knew it was in. His veins are stone cold," said senior Mark Verlatti. The Dons quickly called timeout with four seconds left on the clock. However the referees reviewed the call and ruled that there were five seconds left, giving the Dons just the time needed to run a play.

The original play was for Ramp to take it to the basket. Ramp took the inbounds and immediately headed for the hoop. He was swarmed by three Warriors and kicked it out to the left side to the waiting Nelson who didn't hesitate putting up the shot from behind the arc and winning the game for the Dons.

"The season was pretty disapointing. We had a lot of talent we just couldn't put it together," said Verlatti.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Dons Drown Las Lomas in Wake

By Ben Conley
Sports Editor

The Acalanes boys and girls swimming and diving teams got off to a strong start this season by swimming over Las Lomas. The boys demolished Las Lomas with a score of 126 to 50 as did the girls who won 109 to 84. All this without the help of the Dons star swimmers, freshman Quinn Fitzgerald and sophomore Acacia Clark who were absent due to U.S.S. swimming commitments.

Leading the way for the Dons was senior Travis Low who took first place in both the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly. Low also helped out both 200 relay teams. The 200 freestyle relay team, which consisted of seniors Low, Brad Deal, Rich Andron and junior Tim Malone took first as did the 200 medley team which was made up of Low, Deal, and juniors Dave Peacock and Paul Crawford.

Juniors Brian Enright and Peacock took firsts in the 200 freestyle and 200 I.M. events respectiveley. Fellow junior helped the Dons cause with a victory in the 500 freestyle and junior Paul Crawford took first place in the 100 back stroke. "We have a real strong returning team. We only had a couple of key losses last year and we have some strong newcomers this year. We're just going to have to build on that and we'll do fine," said senior Rich Andron.

Heading the charge for the girls were junior Michelle Migliore and senior Elske Van der Mast. Migliore took firsts in the 50 free and the 100 free. Migliore also was part of the victorious 200 freestyle relay which included junior Devon Chen and sophomores Katie Walsh and Annie Olson, and the 200 medley relay team which consisted of juniors Becky Straw, Sonia Lamel and Walsh.

Van der Mast placed first in the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle events. Walsh also placed first in the 100 backstroke as Straw won the 100 butterfly.

In diving, senior Ryan Nelson placed first with a score of 155.9, and senior Whitney Baca took first with a score of 233.65 for the girls.

Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Sophomore Robin Jones attempts a reverse dive in a dual meet against Las Lomas at Acalanes.

TRACK AND FIELD

Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Junior Scott Seibert sets up to clear the bar in a recent track and field pole vault event. The track team has not yet had any dual meets, although the team has participated in a few unofficial meets.

BASEBALL

Dons Off to Hot Start

Acalanes Goes 5-0 in Pre-Season Play

By Jake Zarah
Staff Writer

The Acalanes baseball team picked up right where they left off last year by winning their first five games in non-league play.

In the most recent game, the Dons prevailed over Washington-Fremont by a score of 6-2. The Dons were led by junior pitcher Jim Woods, who allowed one hit and no runs. The Dons got a big boost from senior Johnik Kolar, who hit a three-run home run in the fifth inning.

In the previous game against perennial powerhouse Encinal, and the Dons' opponent in last years NCS championship game at the Oaland Coliseum, Acalanes came away with an 8-4 win. Senior Ben Conley led the team with a monstrous grand slam in the top of the seventh inning with the score tied at 4 to put away the game.

Against College Park, the Dons prevailed 5-4 after some late heroics by Kolar. The Dons came out and rocked the Falcons' starting pitcher, and jumped out to a 5-0 lead. But College Park put in their top pitcher and the Dons were quieted. While the Dons were shut down, College park came back with 4 runs. But with strong relief pitching from sophomores Jesse Ingram and Art Csider, the Dons were able to hold on. Conley pitched the first four innings of the game for the win.

In the first game of the season, the Dons pounded San Leandro by a score of 13-6.

The Dons begin league play on Tuesday, Mar. 17 against Campolindo. This should be a very good game, for it features two of the area's premier teams.

PHOTOBRIEF

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Girls Lacrosse Defensive Captain, Senior Claire Buser, confers with ex-head Coach Tanya Hart. Hart recently resigned because of a "difference of opinion" with the steering committee, according to team captain Sam Tama.

TENNIS

Dons Ace San Ramon Valley

By Dan Chamberlain
Staff Writer

The Acalanes Men's Tennis team started their season off right with a 8-1 victory over San Ramon Valley, on Tuesday, Mar. 10.

The Dons won five out of six singles games and all three doubles games.

First to gain points for the Dons was freshman Dylan Tubelle, who defeated his adversary in two sets by a score of 6-3 and 6-1.

Next in line for the Dons was senior Brent McDonald, who picked up a win in two sets, pounding his opponent 6-1, 6-1.

Sophomore Andy Byrne also won in two sets by a score of 6-3, 6-4.

Gaining point number four for the Dons was junior Brandon Jones, who won in two sets. Jones sneaked by in the first set, then finished off the game in the second set, winning 6-1.

The singles competition was rounded out by senior Rob Sayegh, who won easily in two sets, 6-2 and 6-1.

The Dons swept the doubles competition, starting with Kevin Lee and Chris Wong, who won in three sets. Lee and Wong won their first set 6-1, conceded their second 3-6, and took the game in the third, by a score of 7-5.

Next was Dwight Lee and Devin Gallo, who won their game in two sets. Dwight Lee and Gallo won the first set 6-4, and the second set 6-1.

The last point earned by the Dons came from Matt Seibert and Nate Lam, who won their game in three sets, 6-1, 2-6, and 6-4.

San Ramon was not a very good loser, according to Seibert. "They were total bad sports, and they were yelling things at us when they would lose a point."

TCAL play starts Tuesday, Mar. 17, when the Dons face Campolindo.

"They are a pretty good team, they lost a couple people, so it should be a good match," said Sayegh.

Athletes of the Issue

Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

Meredith Galer

Being one of only three seniors on a youthful Acalanes squad that has become a powerhouse in California is a big responsibility. However, when your fellow seniors look to you for leadership and support, it is something special. "Danielle and I were vocal but we always looked to Meredith because she always had the right thing to say," said senior Julie Cragholm. Galer also made inspirational speeches before every game. For this Meredith Galer is Blueprint's Female Athlete of the Issue. *Not only was she a leader, but she was a key inside player for the Dons. Her rebounding helped to give the Dons many second chances under the hoop.*

Justin Smith

Taking the reins as a point guard for one of the premier basketball teams in this area as been a task that junior Justin Smith (far right) has taken in stride. In his first varsity basketball season, Smith became what a typical point guard should be, someone with uncanny court sense with the talent to set up anyone on the floor with a good shot. "He really set everyone up, and he was probably the most unselfish player on the team. He brought everyone else's performance level up," said fellow junior Mike Rhoads. For this Smith is Blueprint's Male Athlete of the Issue. *Not only could Smith pass, he was also a deadly outside shooter which kept opponents off guard.*

Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir